



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

9 July 2018

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £37,133.87 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

Service Level Agreements and monitoring is being agreed for the 2018-19 partnership grants. Including funding to support the Museum of Leathercraft, Festive Road and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire.

On Thursday 21st June we supported an information stall in the One Stop Shop for Motor Neurone Disease Awareness Day, following our commitment by motion to adopting the charter last year.

Forums

Carnival: forums float – NBC forums worked with partner agencies The Lowdown and St Andrews to have a decorated float for the carnival parade.

Tuesday 19 June – Notre Dame Cemetery restoration works have begun after money fundraised by NBC and Northampton Notre Dame Association.

Monday 2 July – I'm Still Me Conference: As part of LGBT Partnership the annual conference has been arranged tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. The Youth Forum will also be facilitating a workshop along with Lowdown youth group.

Events

The Bands in the Park programme is proving very popular with large crowds enjoying the music in Abington Park every week.

On Saturday 9th June the annual Northampton Carnival took place with thousands watching the parade as it went past and made its way around the town centre.

On Sunday 17th June the annual Music365 Festival took place with various genres of music taking place in many locations across the town centre including the market square and All Saints Plaza.

The Speedy Cup event held on the Racecourse on 23rd June was very successful. Armed Forces Day in the town centre on Saturday 30 June was very well attended and feedback has been very positive. The Northampton Festival on the Racecourse was held on the 7th & 8th July.

Coming up on the 14th & 15th July we have Funtopia on Abington Park for the children and families and the Fun Colour Run on the 22 July in the same park.

Culture & Heritage

The refurbishment of galleries at Abington Park Museum re-opened to the public at an event on 29 June. The new 'Abington Galleries' are made up of five themed displays and include stories of Abington from the Domesday Book to the present day and includes a changing display showcasing works from Northampton Museums and Art Gallery's collection, as well as work by local artists and photography groups.

Abington Park Museum continues to be popular with visitors and over the summer there will be 8 days of workshops for children and an Edwardian themed family day entitled 'Edwardian Extravaganza' with craft activities, fancy dress, music, Punch & Judy and other activities. Over the summer holidays, an exhibition for all the family opens at the Grosvenor Centre entitled 'Nasty Northampton'. Entry is free and with lots of things to see and do, the exhibition looks at the hysterical and hideous histories of Northampton and brings Northampton's odd history to life.

The Masque Theatre returns to Abington Park Museum with its ever popular annual outdoor Shakespeare production in the courtyard.

A craft fair took place in July which attracted over 40 crafters and was well attended.

During June & July, the museum was hired out for a funeral wake, a wedding, the Masque Theatre and filming sessions by a local film production company.

Museum Expansion Project

Tenders for main contractor appointment have been received following a 2 week extension at the request of contractors. Initial tender analysis has been completed, final queries and clarifications have been sent and received and are being analysed to make a recommendation for appointment.

Asbestos removal works have now finished across the site in preparation for main contractor.

Exhibition design work continues on detailed technical design.

Customer Services

Customer Services have introduced a new customer relationship management system within the Contact Centre. This has introduced cost and performance efficiencies enabling the agents to view service requests completed by customers online and actions completed by contactors. This has reduced transaction times and increasing service delivery at the first point of contact. Further improvements due this month will enable us to offer more services online 24/7, offering customers a more efficient way to request a service, track their request and received confirmation once the request has been completed.

Community Safety

St James week of action delivered, residents donated flowers to be planted in the area. Pay-back did clean ups and cut backs throughout St James. The Wardens also had the alleyways cleared. The week was finished with a Fun Day where we had all public services, including fire and police, attend as well as other information stalls including Solve it and Northampton guide dogs. There was free ice cream, bouncy castle, free face painting, petting zoo, cake competition, mini Olympics and lawn games. There was also a Walter Tull "no barriers" football match after the tree and plaque unveiling by the deputy lieutenant and Father Oliver from the church. The whole week was very well attended and we had lots of volunteers help out throughout the week.

Northampton was awarded a Purple Flag, after judges from the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM), who found our town to offer an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable nightlife. The flag was collected on 27th June.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety