



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 3 June 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £20,930.86 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

There were 24 applications received through the partnership grant process in total. 18 of these organisations will receive funding. These are the organisations that scored most favourably for delivering against the corporate priorities of the Council, they also demonstrated value for money, working in partnership and had identified and evidenced community need.

Forums

17 May – IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia) civic ceremony held at 11am.

18 May - Northampton Pride event held in the town centre to increase visibility of LGBTQ community and collate feedback and evidence for future planning.

Planning underway for Refugee Week at the end of June, being led through the Diverse Communities Forum and International Youth Day, being led by the Youth Forum, which will take place on 12 August.

Events

The Bands in the Park season has continued to attract audiences throughout May who have turned out to listen to bands from Kettering, Marsh Gibbon and Rushden Town.

The town centre saw our Pride event on the Market Square (Saturday 18 May), Oak Apple Day on All Saints (Sunday 26 May) and the annual Beer Festival on Becketts Park (31 May -2 June). These events attracted audiences from across the borough and county and entertained thousands of visitors.

Many more key events are planned in the forthcoming months including the Carnival Parade around the town and on the Racecourse (Sat 8 June); Music Festival in the town centre (Sun 16 June), Race for Life on Abington Park (Sat 22 & Sun 23 June), (Armed Forces Parade in the town centre and Market Square (Sat 29 June). We have some new events like Prosecco in the Park on Becketts Park (Fri 21 – Sun 23 June), 5km run at Delapre (Thurs 19 June), Flag Festival on Becketts (Tues 4 June) and more.

Looking forward we have the Town Show on the Racecourse (Sat 6 & Sun 7 July), Funtopia on Abington Park (Sat 20 & Sun 21 July), Fun Colour Rush on Abington Park (Sun 28 July) and the Mela event on Becketts Park (Sun 28 July). In August we have the Heritage Show at the Guildhall (4th – 8th) and the Level Festival (25th – 27th).

Culture & Heritage

The events programme at Abington Park Museum and the Guildhall continues to attract a wide range of visitors. This month has included a full programme of half term family events including a mini beats hunt and clay workshops at Abington Park Museum. An academic symposium, partnership with the University of Hertfordshire and the Folklore Society, at the Guildhall presented the latest thinking and research on shoes in folklore, building on the museums academic links.

The museum continues to develop its income generating activities. This month saw two corporate hires by paranormal investigation companies and a number of private hires of the new function room. Enquiries for weddings and wedding bookings at Abington Park Museum are growing, with the venue being a popular choice for weddings and celebrations.

The museum continues to develop its work in health and wellbeing with its Dementia Café events, which are a popular and well regarded event.

The annual 'Art in the Park' exhibition opened on 11th May with over 100 works being shown, and 20% increase on last year.

Museum Expansion Project

Work continues on the museum expansion. The new floor has been installed in the temporary exhibition gallery, mechanical and electrical installation is progressing, work has begun on installation of the new goods lift and the re tiling of the roof of the two buildings is underway.

Technical drawings are being produced for the exhibition fit out and the curatorial team are working on final drafts of text for the galleries.

Customer Services

Customer services have been working closely with NPH to implement a Repairs self-serve option for Tenants. The Customer Service team tested the system throughout April which proved to be successful. This was made available to from 1st May allowing tenants to raise and appoint all routine repairs 24/7. Work is underway to promote the Tenants portal to all tenants.

Community Safety

Bike Marking and information events held at NGH and at the University of Northampton at the end of May, in partnership with the police.

29 May – Semilong Community event at Alliston Gardens involving partners as part of days of action planning and consultation. Launch of 'True Knowledge', trusted relationships, Home Office funded youth programme, being delivered by Free2Talk, in Semilong/Spring Boroughs.

Plans are being finalised to support our third primary schools event, during this academic year. Four primary schools, 180 year six students will attend our community safety awareness conference on 6 June. Two additional presentations have been added into the programme including 'how to avoid gangs' and anti-social behaviour.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The following action has been taken by NBC's anti-social behaviour officers, working in partnership with the local policing team, in tackling anti-social behaviour, serious organised crime, and begging and youth violence:

As well as the development of four gang injunctions, we are attending a number of multi-agency meetings discussing individuals who are at risk or part of a gang and working alongside partners to problem solve and to find the best solutions to reduce the impact their behaviour is having on the community.

Business engagement days are being planned in partnership with the BID and the National Retail Crime initiative for the first week in June, to get the businesses in the town on board to ensure they are reporting incidents of ASB to NBC and Northants Police

A large group of adult street drinkers in south-west area causing anti-social behaviour and nuisance have received Community Protection Warning (CPWs). Letters in order to stop the problems. A Community Protection Notice (CPN) and a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) have also been issued to other nominals causing anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre.

A prolific shoplifter has been sentenced to 34 weeks in custody and granted with a Criminal Behaviour Order upon conviction not to enter the shops which they have been targeting.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety