



## Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

4 November 2019

### Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £87,582.65 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

### Partnership Support

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £32,806.96 has been spent through the small grants process, supporting 14 organisations and projects, delivering positive outcomes for the community.

### Forums

11 October – International Coming Out Day bake sale held by LGBTQ staff & allies network, raised more than £100 for local charity Q Space.

14 – 18 October – National Hate Crime Week. Supporting Northampton Partnership Homes and Northants Police to raise awareness amongst the community, what is hate crime and how to report it. Presence throughout the week at high footfall areas, including the Market Square and Weston Favell Shopping Centre.

New intake of youth forum members, all secondary schools in the Borough written to. The majority have nominated two attendees to represent their school at the youth forum. We have more than 15 committed, regular attending representatives.

7 November – UK Parliament Week Question Time event with Cllrs, the High Sheriff and young people from the youth forum.

29 November – I'm Still Me- LGBTQ schools conference for teachers to be held, training and raising awareness amongst our school teachers.

Planning underway for International Day of People with Disabilities (event to be held on 4 October) in partnership with Deafconnect and Northants Police.

### Events

The half marathon on Sunday 29 September was well supported with hundreds of runners taking to our streets around the town centre and finishing at Delapre Park.

The Diwali light celebrations lit up the town centre on Saturday 19 October with stage entertainment on the Market Square and the wonderful parade along Abington Street, St Giles Street and around All Saints.

The Street Fair visited the town centre streets from Saturday 26 to Tuesday 29 October providing entertainment for families.

The annual Fireworks Display took place on the Racecourse on Sunday 3 November and thousands of families entertained with music, a glow show and a magical firework display.

Looking forward we have Remembrance Day Service and Parade in the town centre on Sunday 10 November followed by the Christmas Light Switch-on on Saturday 23 November on the

Market Square with the Frost Fair and parade on Sunday 1 December. There will be entertainment on the Market Square and three Saturday's 30 November, 7 and 14 December.

We supported Northampton Indian Hindu Organisation to deliver Northampton Diwali Parade on the 19th October.

Schools had the opportunity to take part in workshops prior to the parade and make lanterns to display on the day.

## **Culture & Heritage**

Abington Park Museum continues to offer a wide range of exhibitions, activities and events which are appealing to young and old alike.

September saw the exhibition 'Death on Two Legs' open – Northampton artist, Aasen Stephenson has been creating work using traditional paper cutting techniques for many years and first started experimenting with Abington Park's fallen sycamore leaves in 2012. His delicate cuts transform something discarded into something prized. The exhibition is proving popular with visitors.

The museum was the venue for the annual Northampton Heritage Fair during September which attracted over 800 visitors. Exhibitors included the Northampton & District Model Railway Club, Jeyes of Earls Barton, Northampton Transport Heritage and more.

The second in a series of Italian food workshops led by Italian cook and author Carmela Sereno Hayes was enjoyed by 16 adults. The autumn season kicked off with a Food Fair which attracted over 30 county and regional food & traders. Tours of Abington Park Museum led by museum volunteers sold out in September and October, attracting 24 attendees. The first of the autumn series of Over 60s talks sold out to 70 adults. A study day in early October sold out to over 70 adults - a number of speakers including historian and author of 'Eleanor of Castille The Shadow Queen' explored the well-known Northampton Queen Eleanor Cross and the story of Eleanor of Castille, the Queen of Edward 1.

During October the museum was hired out to Northamptonshire Partnership Homes for a Garden Competition, two paranormal events and four Ghost Tours led by the Looking Glass Theatre.

The museum benefited from a recent acquisition of an oil painting by Thomas William Rutter of the interior of the parish church of St Denis, Faxton before it became a ruin. Rutter attended the Northampton School of Art in Abington Street c.1916 and was a member of the Northampton Town & County Art Society. The painting was part of a bequest from Peter Perry, who was up until his retirement, a director of Ward White shoe manufacturers in Higham Ferrers.

## **Museum Expansion Project**

Work on utilities is almost complete, with the electric meter installed and power now live. Gas pipes have been installed and new meter about to go in.

Externally completion of curtain wall, cladding and installation of roof glazing has been completed. Work has begun on the installation of the courtyard paving. Works to the roof are complete and final work is underway on the façade of the building.

Internally the new goods lift is completed and awaiting final testing the timber floors to the Central Hall, Atrium, and shop is complete. Concrete floor to the shoe gallery is complete. Installation has begun on the café and kitchen fit out and appointment made of the operator who will run and manage the café. The exhibition fit out contractor has begun installing setworks and cases.

## Customer Services

We have been working with NPH to promote Daphne the bus. There is a recording on the Housing Officer line promoting the Rota and community engagement sessions. We have started to see a reduction in the appointments that the contact centre are booking in for the housing officer and hope this will start to reduce contact and extend outreach.

We recently delivered a councillor development session focussing on the new 'Report it' tool and benefits and future development in relation to tracking cases. The session also covered reporting out of hours.

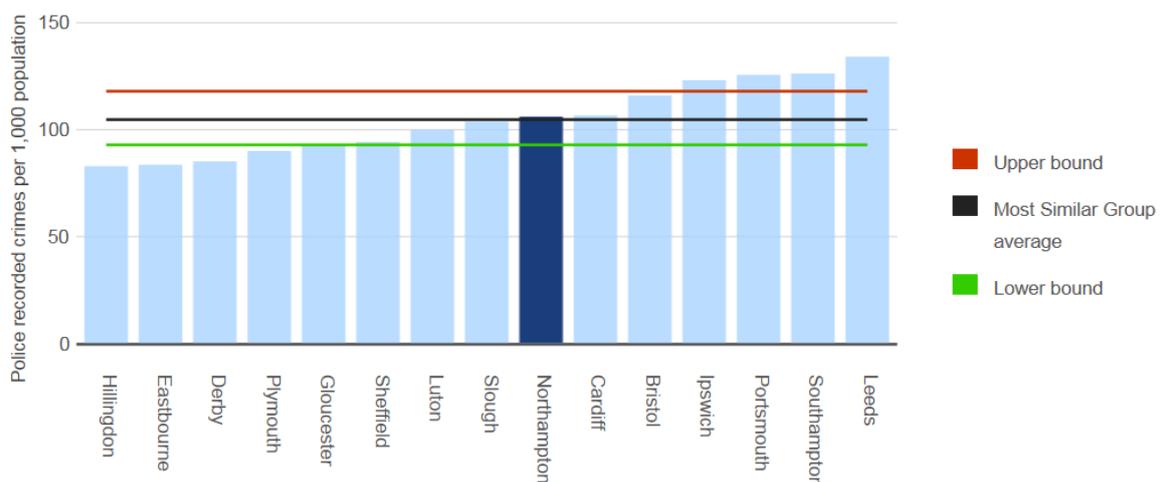
National Customer Service Week took place from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October and was very well supported, showcasing and celebrating customer excellence. During the week the customer service team held an awards ceremony and recognised colleagues for a range of attributes including attendance, most conscientious, role models and also customer satisfaction. They were judged on a range of factors including customer feedback.

## Community Safety

Over the past two months July and August 2019, (in comparison to the same two months last year, 2018), there has been a reduction in overall crime by 13% (698 crimes) in Northampton.

Further data can be accessed via [www.police.co.uk](http://www.police.co.uk) which provides a statistical breakdown of area (North East, Central and South West) and crime type

In the year ending December 2018, the crime rate in Northampton was about the same as the average crime rate across similar areas.



27 September - Supported University of Northampton Fresher's week, promoting personal safety and nights out campaign.

16 October, primary school community safety event held at the Deco Theatre, more than 180 year 6 students attended during the day to learn more from our experts, through workshops and theatre performances and films about important issues such as knife crime, gangs, online safety, child sexual exploitation, rail safety, hate crime and anti-social behaviour.

21 October – Burglary Week of Action delivered in 4 of our identified hotspot areas across the Borough. The week's activity included environmental improvement work, awareness raising and direct safety messages with targeted information put through the doors of properties. The messages coincided with the clocks going back and the darker evenings.

25 October and 4 November – bike marking events carried out in partnership with the police at Waterside and Northampton General Hospital.

Planning underway for our first secondary schools event. To be held at the Deco theatre in November. 540 year 8 and 9 students will attend our community safety awareness event, to hear key community safety messages. Expert speakers, performers and presenters will cover key topics such as healthy relationships, knife and gang crime, personal safety, online safety, grooming, cyber bullying and hate crime.

10 new police officers assigned to town centre for operation lily.

New initiative introduced by superintendent Chris Hilary.  
Very positive results. 18 arrests in first 2 weeks.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Supported the Retail Crime initiative and the BID, with the launch of the new anti-social behaviour reporting software for local businesses in the Town Centre (NTARS).

Training for two new police officers regarding the current ASB legislation and what tools and measures we have to tackle ASB delivered.

Our third Cuckooing specific injunction is being complied, ready to be presented in court imminently.

An aggressive and abusive neighbour dispute has been dealt with by issuing all 5 adults involved in the dispute with CPW's.

Two CPN's issued for shoplifting and aggressive behaviour.

**Councillor Anna King**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety**