

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
Cllr. Lynne Bowen, Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	30 July 2015	9(f)

<b>Executive Report: Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder</b>
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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure and Culture Portfolio, as set out below.

## **2. Volunteering**

- 2.1** The volunteer figures for Quarter 1 show an increase in both the number of new volunteers being signed up and also the total number of volunteer hours offered compared to the same time last year. They have increased from 17 new volunteers in 2014 to 29 this year (April - June) and 4920 hours offered back in 2014 to 6308 this year (April - June). This can be attributed to more Council services offering volunteering opportunities such as The Digital Champion Role and just recently a new volunteer opportunity started within Environmental Health/Food Hygiene. Currently we have over 200 volunteers on our database.

## **3. Sports Development**

- 3.1** On 1 August Memorial Park (2 - 5pm) will stage a Great British Tennis Weekend. The aim is to get more people playing tennis through offering free opportunities to play. The event will also be run to celebrate the opening of the new facility at Memorial Park.
- 3.2** TrySport continues to be a success and so far this year we have had 5670 visits to the weekly sessions and each week has seen an increase on the previous year's numbers.
- 3.3** The Summer Scheme will again be running this year and for the first time it will be delivered through a partnership network which has been established. Wyre Council, Regenda, Fleetwood Town Community Trust, and YMCA will deliver FREE provision for 8 - 16 year olds. The scheme will take place from 3 - 28 August (12.30 - 4.30) at Fleetwood High School.

- 3.4** The Sports Development team recently supported a successful Local Initiative Funding bid from the Fleetwood Multi Stars. The sum of £1,460 will be used to support the delivery of disabled sports provision in Fleetwood.
- 3.5** A Civic Centre Rounder's competition commenced on Tuesday 30 June with 3 teams taking part. So far, everyone has enjoyed the games and they have been played in the correct manner. This year's teams are Team Ibuprofen, Environmental Stealth and One Hit Wonders.
- 3.6** British Cycling, along with a partnership of organisations including Wyre Council has scheduled an exciting summer programme of cycling in Lancashire. Part of a national campaign to get more people cycling for fun and fitness, Sky Ride Local offers a fantastic range of free guided bike rides in Lancashire taking place throughout the summer months. Guided by British Cycling Ride Leaders along scenic local routes and pitched at three different levels, there's something for everyone- whether you're building your confidence or already comfortable on a bike and looking for a challenge. Three ride events are programmed to take place in Wyre.
- 3.7** In preparation for the next round of Sportivate funding opening in July a workshop was organised and delivered to help potential applicants with their bids. The workshop provided tips for writing a successful application and created new ideas for delivery in the area. Feedback from the event was very positive.

#### **4. Tourism and Visitor Services**

- 4.1** Marsh Mill Grand Re-Opening – Saturday 20 June. As a result of extensive renovation works the Mill has had a refurbishment which included the sails and fantail. The grand re-opening was busy and the promotion reached Yorkshire as we had a coach party from Huddersfield on the day. The press came and there was publicity in the Blackpool Gazette, Fleetwood Weekly News and a plug on Radio Lancashire. There will be more events throughout the year, until phase 2 begins.
- 4.2** CCF Training Courses - A bespoke tourism business training course was organised specifically for Fleetwood Chamber of Trade on 'First Steps in Social Media' on 18 May. The course was well received with 14 attendees. A bespoke tourism business course was organised specifically for new traders to Fleetwood Market under the 'love your local markets' scheme. The course was called 'Success Selling Skills' on 20 May and was aimed at first time traders. The last course took place on 17 June with a 'Success in Business Course' which had a steady number of attendees. Planning is now taking place for 'Year 2' which will start in November 2015. This will use course feedback from Year 1 to determine the programme.
- 4.3** Agricultural Shows – The Council is working in partnership with Blackpool Tourism to promote Wyre at 3 agricultural shows (Yorkshire, Highland and Welsh). The first show has now taken place. It's gone well with 1,500 pieces of Wyre print being distributed as part of the

goody bag at the first show. The quality of general enquiries has also been good. The second show is the Great Yorkshire Show and is in the second week of July.

## **5. Arts and Events**

### **(a) SpareParts Festival**

**5.1** The largest arts festival that has taken place on Wyre's coast took place alongside the established Tram Sunday in the town centre. Over 100 performing and craft artists were involved, as well as local showcases. The event was supported by a grant of £40,000 from the Arts Council England, North. This is the second year of the partnership between Fleetwood Festival of Transport and LeftCoast, an event that draws in up to 60,000 people.

### **(b) Commissioning local artists**

**5.2** In partnership, the Council is looking for 5 local artists to work in residency at some of our local destinations. The artists will be chosen this summer, with work commencing in the autumn.

### **(c) Events**

**5.3** This has been another bumper season for local events, particularly galas and carnivals. The switch of Thornton Gala to Jubilee Park in Cleveleys was very successful with increased footfall for the afternoon's event and funfair.

### **(d) Marine Hall - Rock Garden events**

**5.4** Two events will be piloted in August to attract both local music performers and families to the Marine Gardens. Rock Garden is the name of the event and particularly encourages young musicians to take to the Terrace. This is both part of a commitment to youth music development in the borough and further animation of the Marine Gardens, following more restoration of the wider site along the waterfront.

## **6. Theatres**

**6.1** Both the Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatres progress in quarter one is better than anticipated. The number of private lettings is above target and bar income at both venues is strong.

## **7. Comments and questions**

**7.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.