

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Lynne Bowen, Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	21 January 2015	8(f)

Executive Report: Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder

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 This year again so far has proven to be another successful year for volunteering with a number of new opportunities being created within Planning & Environmental Health. We have seen volunteer hours given to Council services increase by over a thousand per quarter compared to last year and so far as per last year the same number of volunteers applying to be signed up. We are currently working with Blackpool & Fylde College, where we have set a group of students as part of their degree, to explore and report on where Wyre Council can help encourage younger people aged between 18-30 to take up volunteering. Part of the reporting will be looking at the effects of social media and the opportunities currently being offered to volunteers, this report is due in May 2016.

- 2.2 Next year's projects include working with the Waste Management Team and creating a volunteer role with the aims of highlighting food waste and sharing with residents ways in which household waste can be reduced.

3. Arts and events

(a) Time and Tides Project

- 3.1 The Council's arts and events team has submitted a bid to Arts Council England for a dance and music project that explores bereavement. Ludus Dance and composer, Lee Affen will work with a small group of young people, developing a new dance piece and musical accompaniment that reflects experiences of coming to terms with a terminally ill loved one, and loss within a family. The work will be done in partnership with the Linden Centre and CASCADE.

3.2 A showcase will take place on Cleveleys beach in the Summer of 2016. There will also be a booklet of beach and public art images, statements from professional bereavement counsellors, and lyrics and poems from the participants.

3.3 A film will be made as the project progresses and, with consent, will be available online with hard copies available as a training tool for professionals and volunteers working with bereavement services.

(b) Working with UCLAN

3.4 The arts and event section welcome a history undergraduate from the University of Central Lancashire who will be involved in working with the section leading up to a living history event in Euston Gardens over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

3.5 The student has been tasked to research new information about the North Euston Hotel in Fleetwood, which will be celebrating its 175 years at this time. This will involve working with the Archives office both locally and nationally.

(c) Fleetwood Lakes 2016

3.6 Following the completion of Five for Fleetwood, there has been significant interest in the use of the lakes on the waterfront at Fleetwood. Already there are proposals for at least 2 triathlon events, open water swimming sessions and a highly competitive Bath Race.

4. Community Arts

(a) Artist in Residence Programme

4.1 The People, Place & Conversation artists' are currently finalising their portfolio of work for the collaborative exhibition which will take place in March 2016. The artists are negotiating the details of the exhibition space and will confirm the date and venue in the New Year.

(b) Arts WebPage

4.2 The content has been prepared for uploading to a new arts webpage to include projects, commission and development opportunities and artist profiles. Due to the volume of information the project has been delayed until the New Year when a basic page will be created with a view to developing a galaxy site later in the year.

(c) Wyre Artists Network

4.3 The second meeting took place on 8 December which saw the membership growing and increased interest in the collective. The group are now considering the official title of the group and a steering group of core members is developing. In time these members will take on independent roles and look at becoming constituted in order to make their own applications for funding to support the network going forward. In the meantime, costings are being prepared for submission to

LeftCoast to cover initial development costs. The group were asked a number of questions regarding their considered need for studio/exhibition space in Wyre and an initial report from the members in attendance has been compiled.

(d) Living Names Visual Art Interpretation

4.4 As part of the Heritage Lottery Fund activity programme a creative, community engagement project is currently in development for Memorial Park, Fleetwood. The project aims to engage the public in a research/crafting programme of work to create a visual interpretation of the names on the Memorial. Artist Linzi Casson has been commissioned to consider the information gathered by our volunteers around the lives of those dedicated on the Memorial. Linzi is working with the community arts and parks officers to engage both existing groups and individuals in the creation of the display which will include textile screen printing of portraits and text to represent each of the fallen.

(e) Cemeteries

4.5 Wyre has achieved Gold Standard for the second year in the Best Value Assessment of the ICCM (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management). It is based on 23 areas of the service including; Providing the families choice in types of graves, depths and memorials; Clear guidance and information with quick and easy to understand administration systems; A dignified burial service that is done safely through safe working practices; Graves that are presented neatly and maintained long after the burial; A training programme for staff to enhance skills; Environmental considerations for wildlife and many more.

5. Comments and questions

5.1 In accordance with procedure rule 10.3 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 10.5.