

Report of:	To:	Date of Publication	Item No.
Cllr Lynne Bowen Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	26 July 2012	10(f)

EXECUTIVE REPORT: LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council of the current position on a number of issues within the Leisure and Culture Portfolio as set out in paragraph 2 below.

2. Current and Future Issues

(a) Sport and leisure

- 2.1 Young people are being offered a much more varied summer scheme this year. Free throughout the school holidays for 8-16 year olds (or 18 with a disability), the programme includes sports such as basketball, street dance, football, skateboarding, volleyball, ultimate frisbee and hockey.
- 2.2 New for this year will be the addition of arts and crafts company HYPE, whose sessions will include kite making. Two Olympic and Paralympic themed days will introduce the likes of handball, goalball and sitting volleyball and a third will see young people carry their own hand-made torches in an Olympic torch relay before competing in track and field events.
- 2.3 A review of Trysport evening sessions takes place during the summer break ready for an enhanced offer from September onwards. Possible new sports are dodgeball and handball. Nearly 5000 visits have been made by young people to these free sessions since September 2011.
- 2.4 Extra sessions have been added to our cycling programme, which hosts free guided rides around Thornton and Fleetwood. Free skateboarding, scooter and rollerblade sessions for 14-25 year olds have also been well attended.

(b) Parks and Open Spaces

- 2.5** Financial support for restoration of Memorial Park in Fleetwood has been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. We have been given £102,600 to progress our plans.
- 2.6** The new Church Road playground in Thornton has won a police Secure By Design award usually reserved for new homes, commercial premises, car parks or security projects that demonstrate strong crime prevention.
- 2.7** One of the main factors was the natural surveillance of the playground provided by busy buildings nearby, open view from the main road, no hiding places and no unintentional climbing aids. Separate areas for younger children away from youth gathering was also taken into account.
- 2.8** The public will shortly be consulted on plans for an inclusive play area in Fleetwood, most likely on the waterfront near existing facilities. A feasibility study is being carried out in partnership with Lancashire County Council and an external consultant. If a need is identified then various funding pots can be accessed.

(c) Tourism

- 2.9** An online tourist information shop is being developed for the sale of Wyre products and souvenirs. The aim is to host this on the Amazon website. The shop will also raise awareness about the existence of our visitor information centres.
- 2.10** There was a dramatic increase in customers at the Visit Cleveleys centre in April and May — 678 and 582 which compares with 386 and 449 last year, likely due to the return of the trams. Visit Garstang is once again in the running for Visitor Information Provider of the Year at the Lancashire Tourism Awards 2012/13.

(d) Arts and Events

- 2.11** More than 20,000 people saw the Olympic Flame pass through Wyre on a very wet 22 June. There were no major crowd or traffic incidents despite Cleveleys being the first community in the country to experience a re-route away from a wind-battered promenade. Recognition should be given to staff and police on the ground for implementing very swift traffic management changes in the area.
- 2.12** We have taken a step nearer £3m of Arts Council investment to develop high quality arts engagement in Wyre and Blackpool. The programme would turn the two boroughs into a “playground

of wonders” encouraging and supporting artists and communities to be more daring and develop new ways of creating great art.

- 2.13** The money would be spread over three years. Our consortium, which also includes Blackpool Council, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Merlin Entertainments and the Grand Theatre, is one of only eight projects to reach the next round of the bidding process. A decision is expected in mid-August.

3. Comments and Questions

- 3.1** 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.

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