

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 11 SEPTEMBER 2012
title: GENERAL REPORT
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1 PURPOSE

To inform members of financial matters relating to Brungerley Park, and recent events of Sports Development.

2 BRUNGERLEY PARK

A substantial amount of damage to trees next to the top path in the park occurred on the afternoon of 18 August, due to a mini tornado.

As a consequence, approximately 200m of path was completely obstructed, and had to be cleared by a tree contractor. In addition, further tree safety works are required to ensure public safety. The total cost is likely to be around £2,000.

On a more positive note, the Friends of Brungerley Park have successfully applied for a grant from the North England Horticultural Society to provide additional planting in the park. The grant, totally £1,984, will be used to plant specimen trees and create wildflower meadows.

3 RIBBLE VALLEY OLYMPIC WEEKEND

Over the weekend of Friday 20 July – Sunday 22 July we got together with several local clubs and organisations to celebrate one week to go before the beginning of the London Olympics. Over twenty FREE sessions were laid on by clubs for people to access, from beginner skiing lessons to contemporary street dance workshops. The weekend was promoted as a double page spread in the Ribble Valley Summer Activities booklet, as well as being promoted around the borough, in the local newspapers and on our social network sites.

Over 250 people attended the wide range of activities over the weekend, the highlight being an Olympic Sports Day event held at Longridge Sports Centre, which was attended by an additional hundred children. Partners for the weekend included Young People's Service, FundaPlay, Longridge Sports Centre, The Old Station, Longridge Community Gym, Kingfisher Gym, as well as the many local sports clubs that volunteered their time and facilities.

4 RIBBLE VALLEY SUMMER ACTIVITIES BOOKLET

RVBC took a lead this year, yet again, on the Ribble Valley Summer Activities booklet, which was distributed to every school in the borough. The collection of information from a variety of local partners was disseminated through the Engagement sub-group of The Children's Trust (Ribble Valley). A total of £5000 was set-aside for the production of the booklet via The Children's Trust. Local partners that promoted their activities in the booklet included Clitheroe/Whalley/Chatburn/Read Library, Pro-Sport Coaching, FundaPlay, Future Stars Football Coaching, Ribble Valley Tennis Centre, Clitheroe Platform Gallery to mention a few.

10,000 booklets were produced, and not only were these distributed amongst all schools, but were also present in Ribblesdale Pool, Council Offices, all local libraries, as well as being present online via the Council website.

5 **RIBBLE VALLEY SPORTS AWARDS**

The awards took place on Friday 27 July at The Grand, where seven different awards were presented to the local voluntary sports sector. The awards form a part of the wider Lancashire Sports Awards, which rewards excellence and commitment in local community sport. Nominations were open through April and May, with the shortlisted people being invited to the event. This year, we were lucky to welcome an actual Ribble Valley Olympic Torch bearer to the event (Elizabeth Greenwood), and she told her story of the day she helped carry the Olympic Torch. The award winners were as follows:

Club of the Year – Ribble Valley Netball Club
Coach of the Year – Dean Sumner (Clitheroe Dolphins)
Young Volunteer of the Year – Bethany Tomlinson
School of the Year – Longridge High School
Adult Volunteer – Mel Diack
Lifetime Achievement – Tom Haworth (Longridge Cricket Club)
Rising Star – Kate Atkinson

All the award winners will now go forward to the Lancashire Sports Awards, and represent the Ribble Valley at Preston Guild Hall on Friday 28 September.

6 **RIBBLE VALLEY SOCCER CAGE**

The Sports Development team, in partnership with The Fire Service Ribble Valley and Hyndburn, have been touring the borough with the cage, inviting local young people to 'come and have a go' in the small facility. The cage enabled youngsters to play small sided football in an enclosed space on any flat surface, such as a car park. The Fire Service used the opportunity to talk to parents about smoke alarms, and to older teenagers about safer driving as part of the 'Geared and Go' campaign.

The cage travelled to Whalley, Longridge and Clitheroe, and over a hundred young people experienced the soccer cage. Pictures from the venues can be found on the Sports Development Twitter and Facebook pages.

7 **CLITHEROE TORCHLIGHT MASS CYCLE**

Over sixty cyclists took the opportunity to ride a traffic-free route of Clitheroe on Saturday 25 August as part of the Torchlight celebrations. In partnership with the Torchlight Organising Committee, we invited any cyclists that wanted to take part, to come along and decorate their bicycles and take part in the ride. There were several weird and wonderful bicycles on hand, such as an original Penny Farthing, a Unicycle, and an adapted semi recumbent for a child with severe learning disabilities. Riders ages were varied from as young as 4 years old up to 70 years old!

Free bike lights, courtesy of Help Direct, were also given out to local youngsters, who pre-registered for the ride as part of the Healthy Streets campaign.

4 **CONCLUSION**

These are recent developments and events within Community Services.

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