

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 13

meeting date: 11 OCTOBER 2016
title: GENERAL REPORT
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1 PURPOSE

To inform on the current exhibition of the Platform Gallery, and to update on Sports Development.

2 PLATFORM GALLERY

Clay Collective (23 July - 8 October 2016) showcased contemporary ceramics made by the dynamic regional craft network, the Northern Potters Association (NPA). Exhibiting members included a range of ages and approaches to making in clay, including Matt Wilcock, the recent winner of the BBC's craft programme, *The Great Pottery Throwdown* (who kindly lent us the winner's trophy, decorated by the eminent ceramicist Kate Malone). This has been a popular show for the Gallery, with over £2500 of sales so far, and the public reception of the show has been overwhelmingly positive, finding it inspiring and interesting:

"An outstanding exhibition. Delighted I didn't miss it"

"All the pottery here is of a very high standard and lovely to have a visiting potter. Thank you"

"Beautiful pieces of work. Inspiring, emotive, evocative"

Visitor numbers have been strong (totals yet to be confirmed); visitors have also really enjoyed the experience of meeting the potters and seeing them at work in our pop-up pottery studio. Nine members of the NPA have been sharing their specialist knowledge and skills over the course of the show, encouraging people to have a go themselves in the Gallery. Total engagement figures have to be confirmed for the studio, but potter Jo Wills, for instance, worked with 38 visitors over the course of a week in the Platform. The makers have really appreciated our support in being offered a placement like this, where they can interact with the public. The show has definitely strengthened the partnership the Platform has developed with the NPA and its members, and we look forward to continuing that relationship in the future through shows and the Craft Shop.

3 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Summer Activities programme in the Ribble Valley 2016 has been a tremendous success during the six week summer holiday period. The booklet has seen over 6000 attendances (some repeat) at the activities advertised in it, and over 1200 activity hours delivered over that period. The booklet showcases the fantastic partnership work between local sports clubs, charities, community groups, schools, and local businesses, as testified by all partners involved.

Besides the booklet being crammed full of sporting, cultural, and educational activity for children and young people across the borough, the scheme has also allowed those on the lowest of incomes to have a little bit of fun, excitement, and feel engaged. The Partner Referral Scheme is designed to allow those of greatest need, access to Summer Activities. The scheme, this summer, has helped 27 children and families accessing

sporting play schemes, educational visits, qualification training, and children's clubs – totalling more than £1000. Agencies working with these young people are the ones that 'refer' them onto the scheme, examples being children's centres, schools, and the food bank. The scheme has been created, organised, and administered by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The Summer Booklet has been funded by Lancashire County Council for the last eight years; this funding is no longer available.

4 CONCLUSION

Over the summer months, the Platform Gallery, and Sports Development, have contributed to the wellbeing of the community, and enhanced the reputation of the Council.

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