

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 29 AUGUST 2017
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: COLIN WINTERBOTTOM
COMMUNITY LEISURE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT MANGER
PETER FLETCHER, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

To update on specific aspects of Community Services, namely, Ribblesdale Pool, the Platform Gallery, and Sports Development.

2 RIBBLESDALE POOL

2.1 Lifeguard Training (NPLG) Course

To help in maintaining a supply of Lifeguards, a course was delivered at the Pool recently for 8 young people, aged between 16 to 21 years of age, to become National Pool Lifeguard Qualified. All 8 candidates qualified, and 4 to 5 of them are likely to join the casual list of Lifeguards to work in the near future.

2.2 Swimming Teachers and Provision of Lessons

Despite difficulties being encountered in recruiting new Swimming Instructors to deliver lessons to schools commencing in September, the appointment of an Instructor to a Part – Time position will enable a proportion of lessons to re-start. There are also two Lifeguards pursuing Swimming Teaching qualifications, and are expected to be in a position to support delivery by the end of next month. The challenges of sustaining the provision of Swimming Instruction over the long term will be evaluated and options appraised in detail to identify solutions to what has become an industry-wide problem.

2.3 Swimtag

A Swimtag is available at reception to anyone, on a loan basis, to help monitor their swimming performance, and serves as a motivational aid tracking calorie expenditure, lengths and type of stroke swum, fastest length, and duration of session.

The current Swimtag promotion is the Windermere Challenge. There has been a small rise in swim duration, and Ribblesdale Pool is now 9th in the whole of the UK for average distance swum per swim. At the end of September, we will put out a new challenge alongside a monthly challenge; and prizes are to be given to the winners of the current one.

3 PLATFORM GALLERY

3.1 The Exhibition programme for 2017-18

This has been prepared and consists of;-

Future of Fixing	29 July to 7 October
Northern Star	21 October to 6 January
Marvellous Mechanics	20 January to 24 March
Craft Open	14 April to 23 June
Women in British History/ Ceramics	7 July to 15 September
Northern Star	29 September to 5 January

3.2 The Previous Exhibition - Found in the Fields 6 May – 16 July 2017

Found in the Fields was a touring suite of twelve beautiful lithograph prints, created by the celebrated printmaker, Carry Akroyd. The Platform Gallery was pleased to showcase this talented British craftswoman's project alongside a range of her print practice, featuring linocuts and other screenprints.

The Platform Gallery Craft Shop sold books, cards and postcards by the artist, as well as facilitating orders of prints from the show and her supporting body of print work. The shop also hosted a curated range of craftmakers who likewise have been influenced by the natural world.

Total sales of show are estimated at £3448.08 before commission taken.

The Gallery also held a tour and talk by Carry on Saturday 17 June, 2-4pm. Around 25 visitors attended the event, and sales were made on the day. The supervisor received direct feedback from participants supportive of this kind of event at the Gallery.

This was an incredibly popular show, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Visitors who left comments came from as far away as USA, Australia, Spain, and Ireland, as well as locals and Lancashire residents:

3.3 The Current Exhibition

Everyday Objects: More of the Same

A Touring Show by Jason Taylor 29 July – 7 October 2017

Back in 2011, designer Jason Taylor set himself an epic challenge – to design and make a new thing every day of the year throughout 2012. Working with mundane, mass-produced objects that populate our everyday lives, Jason tinkered with familiar items to create something entirely original and new.

The Platform Gallery is pleased to be able to share the latest iteration of the show, sharing Jason's latest experiments and approach to making – we hope to inspire visitors to look anew at their own everyday objects, and rethink how they use such stuff of a throwaway society.

Accompanying the show there will be a pop-up shop where visitors can purchase souvenirs and gifts made by Jason. We are also running a series of drop-in workshops where visitors are welcome to experiment and discover the joy of making.

3.4 ArtWalk

The day of the next town ArtWalk is Sunday 24 September 2017. Clitheroe Artwalk highlights seven of Clitheroe's galleries, allowing visitors to start their journey anywhere along the route.

3.5 Art Experience for School Children

Partnering with Ribble Valley Art Studios, Art Trips for Primary Schools are to commence this September. Combining an exhibition visit with practical workshops, it is hoped that this maker-led trip will be a fantastic way to inspire young classes and encourage their future in making.

3.6 Sunday Opening

The Gallery has been opened over summer holiday period on Sundays and the recorded attendances have varied so far between 50 to 240; with a total of 1659 at an average of 111.

4 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Developing Facilities in Longridge

The Sports Development Officer has been working with Longridge Town Juniors and AFC Longridge to help develop the playing pitches at Mardale and Kestor Lane and, as a result, all five pitches have now been treated by Shockwaving. When a football pitch is played on regularly it becomes compacted. This is when the soil particles are squeezed together forcing out any air. This stops roots penetrating the soil structure and reaching the required depth for a healthy plant. This, in time, makes the grass plant weaker than it would normally be. It also prevents the rainwater percolating through the soil layers and into the drain, causing inefficient drainage and, in extreme conditions, waterlogging.

To alleviate this problem, the most cost effective procedure is Shockwaving (earthquaking as it is sometimes called). This breaks up the compaction, and leaves the soil structure with a 50/50 mixture of soil particles and air.

Shockwaving is a linear aeration technique where alternate blades cut through the soil to move it from side to side, 'cracking open' the soil structure.

It is hoped this will allow more football matches to take place, and has only been achieved through the partnership working between the clubs and the council.

The council has, in addition to this, bought new junior goal posts for Longridge Town Juniors to use, and marked out two new small sided pitches to allow more junior teams to train and play matches.

4.2 **Summer 2017**

The Summer Activities programme in the Ribble Valley 2017 has been a tremendous success during the six week summer holiday period. The activities have had 1000's of attendances (some repeat) at the activities advertised in it, and over 1000 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.

The booklet this year has been completely self-funding after LCC support ceased after summer 2016. All adverts have been paid for by providers, with a big 'thank you' to Roefield Leisure for working in partnership with the council, and contributing the over 46% of the total cost.

The scheme has been created, organised, and administered by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

4.3 **Sportivate Project**

A project entitled 'Swimming for Women' has been approved for funding support, and will be delivered at Ribblesdale Pool. Sport England's 'Youth Insight', August 2014, suggests 'we don't need to replace traditional competitive sport but a broader offer that meets more diverse needs'. 'Swimming for Women' offers a varied and flexible programme of physical activity that will satisfy the diverse needs and interests of young ladies, accessible across 7 days of the week.

The project will focus on changing behaviour to sport and physical activity, rather than attitude. The non-competitive nature of the offer will have a key focus on those seeking to adopt a healthy and positive approach to physical activity and life. The offer will be specifically and carefully marketed using all available social media channels. This targeted approach will aim to engage those described as 'Uninterested' who display irregular and inactive behaviour. Access to a 'Social' and 'Personalised' experience will support the recruitment of this hard-to-reach cross section of 17-25 year olds.

Participants must be aged between 17-25 years and, if they access the 8 week programme, they will be offered a free 1 month membership to the pool so they can carry on their regular swimming sessions.

Participants will be issued a pass at the start of the programme which will be swiped at reception upon arrival at leisure centres to monitor frequency of attendance. The programme includes weekly coaching sessions that are available to all participants.

5 **CONCLUSION**

Committee will continue to be informed of further relevant progress and updates within Community Services.

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Community Services Committee 29.8.17/Colin Winterbottom/Peter Fletcher/IW