

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No. 14

meeting date: 13 MARCH 2018  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
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## 1 PURPOSE

To inform on events within refuse collection, parking, arts development, and the food festival working group.

## 2 REFUSE COLLECTION

- As members are aware we have experienced extreme weather conditions during February. One week, in particular, we were unable reach some rural villages owing to snow covered roads from Monday to the Wednesday. Following the effects of 'the Beast from the East' and 'Storm Emma' the entire refuse collection service was suspended for one day as it was considered that driving a 26 tonne refuse collection vehicle in such conditions would be ill advised both to protect the health & safety of staff and the public. It is worth noting neighbouring authorities also suspended waste collection services.

A message was placed on social media via twitter, Facebook, and on the Refuse page of the Council's website to inform the public and trade customers; contact centre staff relayed the message to members of the public who telephoned the offices, that any waste not collected would be collected the following week.

- Residents of the borough will receive a generic refuse calendar along with their council tax bill this year. The purpose is simply to inform them that the same cycles of collection will continue into 2018/2019. There is also a section reinforcing the recycling message together with what can and what cannot be placed in the recycling bin.
- In the next few weeks, it is the Council's intention to try to receive a clearer message from the disposal authority, LCC, on what their markets will and will not recycle. This will then form part of a borough-wide publicity campaign to share the Council's values of recycling as much as possible.
- The Council also intends to include in the campaign both stickers for the bins and also something, yet to be decided, for the public to keep inside their homes eg fridge magnets. We will also use the form of printed and social media to get the message as wide as possible throughout the borough.
- Towards the end of the year information stickers will be put on the bins to inform residents of the Christmas & New Year collection dates.

### **3 PARKING**

Parkeon, the manufacturer of the Council's existing pay and display machines, cannot upgrade them to take card payments without supplying completely new machines. A quote was obtained for the provision of 3 new machines; funds for which have been subsequently allocated. The Council will then need to enter into an agreement with a payment service provider to handle the payments.

An alternative provider (ISP) was found who offered an upgrade solution to the existing machines, and would enable 7 machines to be upgraded for funds available. They also have an agreement with Barclays which would remove the need to enter into a contract with a payment service provider, as they would be responsible for transferring the income directly to the Council. This is currently being investigated further.

ISP has identified a variation to the model of machine used by the Council. There are two types of this model, and the Council owns the less common machine which they have currently not been able to upgrade. They have confirmed that they are working to resolve this issue, and believe they will be able to upgrade the Council's machines later in 2018. They offered an alternative of directly replacing 4 machines for the same cost as upgrading 7 machines, but CMT and the Car Parking Working Group both decided to wait for the upgrade option to become available.

### **4 ARTS DEVELOPMENT**

#### **4.1 Artwalk Clitheroe**

Since the opening of the Platform Gallery, Ribble Valley Borough Council has led the way in promoting the Ribble Valley as a hub for the arts. We can now see that this has inspired multiple independent galleries to open within the area with a concentrated cluster within Clitheroe. Each venue has a very individual, inspiring style, many featuring work from local artists and displaying a broad spectrum of art forms.

Artwalk Clitheroe is a series of events that highlights a 2km walking route to enjoy the Clitheroe galleries, allowing visitors to start their journey anywhere along the route and take in the cultural atmosphere of the town. The galleries featured are Knowle Top Studios, Longitude Gallery, Platform Gallery, Ribble Valley Art Studios, The Keep, The Old Bakehouse Gallery, Imagine, and the Steward's Gallery.

The event is essentially self-sustaining with each venue contributing towards the marketing costs of the project. Rather than being in competition, each venue shares its audience with the aim of highlighting the unique hub of galleries in Clitheroe. By creating events when all venues are open, visitors can plan a full day focused purely on visiting the galleries, creating a unique visitor experience for Ribble Valley residents and tourists.

In 2017, the collective held three events. Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 11–4, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 11–4, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 5 -10pm.

The partnership has been very pleased with how successful the venture has been in such a short space of time. The events have encouraged visitors to explore new unknown galleries. People have attended multiple events to visit the galleries they

did not manage to get to in the previous events. A great outcome of the events is that a lot of people have been doing the Artwalk in their own time outside of the event days using the leaflet /map created by the group.

Visitors have come from the Ribble Valley and its surrounding districts, but also Huddersfield and a large concentration from Manchester. Here are a few insights on the visitors and their experience;

First time visitors from Manchester who had heard of the Platform Gallery before they came, were encouraged to visit because of the larger event, left saying “fantastic craft gallery, great range of high quality lovely work from makers, great gallery!”

Visitors from Manchester stayed for the day after hearing about the event on Facebook “Brilliant we came from Manchester to explore Clitheroe and the artists around the exhibitions, great Sunday”

Visitors came from Manchester after hearing about it when they were on holiday in France.

More dates for events in 2018 are planned, developing Artwalk Clitheroe from feedback and experience gained in 2017.

To find out more, call in at any of the participating galleries to pick up a copy of the Clitheroe Artwalk Map, or find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/artwalkevent/> or on Ribble Valley Arts:

<http://www.rvarts.co.uk/artwalk-clitheroe/>

#### 4.2 Public Art

**The Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail** based within Brungerley Park and Cross Hill Nature Reserve. Arts Development with the help of volunteers from the Friends of Brungerley, Wildlife Trust, and the RVBC parks department has undergone its annual maintenance and clean up. The sculptures are back to looking their best with some ongoing work required in the new financial year. A new leaflet is being created to relaunch the trail in Spring 2018.

**The Labyrinth** within the Castle Grounds. The parks department has continued to look after the Labyrinth since its maintenance in 2016 as such no additional work has been required. The information sign for the Labyrinth has been vandalised for the second time, the decision has been taken not to replace it again.

**John Smiths Playing Fields** in Longridge has a Sculpture/Nature and Orienteering Trail a cleaning and maintenance check is scheduled within the new financial year 2018/19.

**The Community Rose Garden** is based within the grounds of the Clitheroe Castle Park. A cleaning and maintenance check is scheduled within the new financial year 2018/19.

#### 4.3 Ribble Valley Arts

[www.rvarts.co.uk](http://www.rvarts.co.uk) A website supporting Ribble Valley creative industries, giving the public direct access to the events and businesses based in the borough. The website is managed by Ribble Valley Borough Council – Arts Development. Ribble Valley is home to a wide variety of Arts. Its stunning scenery, bustling market towns,

and quaint villages set the scene as an inspirational landscape and community for creative people to thrive. Arts practitioners based in the Ribble Valley vary from hobbyists to professionals, across the full spectrum of the arts. The Arts Directory contains the creative talents and skills based within the borough. The Events & Venues sections highlight key arts events and places to visit. People can keep informed by subscribing to the Ribble Valley Arts e-newsletter, following @RVBCArtsDev on twitter or Arts Development, Ribble Valley Borough Council on Facebook. People who work in the Arts and are based in the Ribble Valley are invited to feature on the website.

#### 4.4 Snow Moon Festival

February 2018 saw Clitheroe's first Snow Moon Festival, a free Clitheroe family festival celebrating the upcoming spring, with light, art, music, and community. With funding from RVBC Arts Development, the team behind the Cloudspotting Music & Arts Festival was able to develop this pilot project with the aim of it becoming a sustainable annual event. Prior to the event, community group leaders were given a course in willow lantern making. They then delivered sessions to their groups, including cubs, brownies, beavers, and rainbows. This provided hundreds of pre-made lanterns for families to bring along on the day of the festival.

The event was held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. From 11–4.30, there was a full programme of free workshops for families to get creative! Over 1000 people participated in the workshops, banner, instrument, and costume making, moons on sticks, poetry and storytelling. Venues included; Platform Gallery, Costa Coffee, Castle Museum, Longitude Gallery, Clitheroe Library, United Reformed Church, and The Grand. At 5pm, a spectacle procession of 800 people and their lanterns paraded from the Clitheroe Castle through the park grounds, finishing at the Clitheroe Market Bullring. For 300 people that reserved tickets, the grand finale was a free concert at The Grand with the high energy Clitheroe band, Drop The Floor, which saw children and adults dancing the night away.

The event exceeded expectations of participation and attendance, with willow lantern workshops and the Grand concert being oversubscribed. The event will be evaluated and developed with the plan to develop the festival for February 2019, making it bigger, better, and engaging more members of the community.

**Other arts development projects;** Arts Excellence and Arts Development Grants, Dementia & Healthy Ageing, Ribble Valley Families, Bowland AONB, and Platform Gallery Development.

#### 5 FOOD FESTIVAL WORKING GROUP

The Food Festival Working Group had its first meeting on 28 February 2018. At the request of the Leader the membership of the working group has been extended to include 3 Clitheroe councillors in addition to himself and the Chairman of Community Services Committee. The remit of the group remains as agreed at committee ie to help obtain sponsorship for the Festival.

#### 6 CONCLUSION

Further developments and relevant activities within Community Services will be reported to future Committees

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For further information on the Food Festival Working Group,  
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