

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 15

meeting date: 4 SEPTEMBER 2018
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER, HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES
HELEN CRESSWELL, GALLERY AND INFORMATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR

1 PURPOSE

To update on issues in Engineering Services, Cultural and Leisure Services, and the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre.

2 ENGINEERING SERVICES

2.1 Parking

An order has now been placed to upgrade 7 parking ticket machines to allow use of cards including “contactless” to be used as a form of payment. The car parks to have the new facility will be Railway View, Edisford, Lowergate, Chester Avenue, and Pope Croft, as agreed by Community Services Committee 9 January 2018. The scheme is expected to start on site in November 2018.

2.2 Castle Museum Windows

The project consists of repairs to 60 timber sash windows at the Castle Museum; currently 40 windows have been repaired and back to full working order. In total, there are four phases of scaffold, three have been erected and dismantled with the final phase going up on 15 August.

Asbestos has been found in two of the windows and removal is programmed in for 10 August. Overall, the project is running smoothly and will be completed within budget.

2.3 Queensway Garages

The garage roof replacement project is running smoothly; the asbestos roof has been removed, and we are currently at about 75% completion. Again, this project will be completed within budget.

3 CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

3.1 Clitheroe Food Festival

The weather was very benign this year despite a very poor forecast the previous week. Many thousands of people turned out to enjoy the variety of food and drink stalls on offer. Despite predictions of a lower turnout by some prior to the event, the car park took a very similar amount of money and was showing full signs at lunchtime, leading to some queuing of traffic. The town itself was as busy as last year. Because many stallholders know that the crowd is large, fewer sell out early, bringing enough stock to keep going to the close at 4.30pm. Some new learning was obtained from the event, which adds to the knowledge bank we have built up for this and other events the Council is involved in staging.

The introduction of street entertainers was well received; there were three different groups of performers.

Crowd density remains a concern, due to it being a free event; it is unknown until the day how many people will attend.

There will be a full report providing the financial breakdown for the event at the October meeting of Community Services.

3.2 Castle Gate commemorative plaque

During August, one of the plaques on Clitheroe Castle Gate was prised off, along with another down by the children's play area. The latter was found behind the toilet block, sadly the former one is still missing. The incidents and theft were reported to the police, and the War memorials charity that keeps a record of such plaques has been informed.

A press release was issued to try to see if anyone would come forward with any information, and CCTV was examined. However, neither avenue has resulted in any further information being provided, and the plaque from the gate is still missing.

A new plaque will be ordered based on the photograph we have of the one which was stolen so the replacement can be as accurate in appearance as possible, without the weathering.

4 PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Visitor Numbers for 2018:

Month	Numbers
January	1950
February	2645
March	3266
April	2586
May	3294
June	2793
July	2963

Current Exhibitions:

Nostalgia by Decorum, and Women in British History by Katch Skinner

7 July – 15 September 2018

2018 is a timely year to focus to women's social and cultural history as the country celebrates The Representation of the People Act 1918 which extended the vote to women. The makers in our shows responded to their personal and women's histories, making sensitive and thoughtful work in response.

Katch's ceramics have often featured in our Christmas shows; her distinctive style is popular with customers, and this current show has been no exception. She has made commemorative ware celebrating women who left their mark in British history. Each piece is presented with some research on each woman, paying tribute to their achievements, which has proved popular with our visitors, generating retail sales of £2025 and counting.

Decorum is a group of four textile and mixed media artists, exploring decorative embellishment and textures. Each maker's work shares the theme of nostalgia,

examining female making past and present, all linked together through social historical references. Their smaller 'shop' exhibits have been popular with customers, as have the workshops they have put on in the space.

Coming next: Northern Star 2018 29 September – 5 January 2019

Christmas is upon us once again! Our annual showcase of British craft talent, this exhibition aims to delight and inspire customers to share and support craft this Christmas.

5 CONCLUSION

Further updates will be included in future meetings of this Committee.

ADRIAN HARPER
HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

HELEN CRESSWELL
GALLERY AND INFORMATION CENTRE SUPERVISOR

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information on Engineering Services,
please contact Adrian Harper 01200 414523

For further information on Cultural and Leisure Services,
please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

For further information on the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre,
please contact Helen Cresswell 01200 425566