

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 15

meeting date: TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2020
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update on developments in Community Services.

2 DEPOT WORKSHOP

2.1 The vacancy for a mechanic is still outstanding from November and the Council's second mechanic has been on long-term sick leave since early January.

2.2 A service has been brought in to assist in keeping the fleet mobile and legal. Unfortunately, it is not a full-time service as the company does have other customers to service. However, the company does have some hire vehicles available for hire and these have been utilised whenever they have been needed.

2.3 The full-time Refuse/Workshop Manager is expected to start on 6 April 2020.

3 PLATFORM GALLERY

3.1 The Christmas exhibition: Northern Star was especially well received by visitors to the Platform Gallery this year and this is supported by the level of income from sales generated and the gross commission sales were 12% up and Sale or Return items were 20% up on the previous year's sales.

3.2 There were approximately 70 artists/craft makers providing stock and the most popular proved to be; Glasswork, textiles, wool and pewter. There was also use of the education space by makers who were able to hire Art and Craft stalls during weekends in December, and this contributed towards making it a very busy period.

3.3 The current exhibition 'Platform and Function', has received some very positive feedback and includes the work of exciting new makers/artists selected by the Gallery Supervisors from the Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair, held in Manchester last year and the British Craft Trade Fair. Upcoming exhibitions include the 'Craft Open' which runs between April and June and this is followed by 'Connecting Crafts' which connects two titans of Crafts; Printmaking and Ceramics. To demonstrate and celebrate the range styles from the traditional to the innovative. Established artists who are experts in their respective areas are coming together in this inspiring collaboration.

4 RV3G

4.1 The pitches continue to be popular with enquires from new potential users. The main pitch was closed during half term to allow new lines to be painted on to the surface; these have been completed and significantly improved the pitch marking. The telephone line to the new community building has now been installed, enabling the internet connection to be established and bookings to be explored for the meeting room.

4.2 The main contractor will continue to carry out some work to the facility which was identified during handover and will be reinstating the grass area around the site in the Spring, once the ground conditions have improved.

5 **CONCLUSION**

5.1 Further developments will be reported to future committees.

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Community Services/10.3.20/MB