

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 3 SEPTEMBER 2013  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: TERRY LONGDEN, HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES  
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TRACY BALKO, HEALTH & FITNESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
KATHERINE RODGERS, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

### 1 PURPOSE

To update on the development of the in-house paper and cardboard collection, progress in providing larger green wheeled bins, current work within Healthy Lifestyles, and activities at the Platform Gallery.

### 2 UPDATE – IN-HOUSE PAPER AND CARDBOARD COLLECTION SERVICE

As approved by the previous meeting of this committee, the Council's in-house refuse and recycling service took over the fortnightly collection of the waste paper and cardboard from residential properties in the borough from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013. This service was previously being undertaken by a private contractor.

The in-house operation utilises more efficient collection routes within the collection days than the previous operator, and hence the collection vehicle is now calling at some properties earlier in the working day than with the contractor's times. During the first collection cycle, arrangements were made with individuals who reported that they were affected by this initial variation to either collect their paper on that occasion later in the day, or to issue the resident with an additional white sack so that paper could be retained for collection on the next cycle.

Publicity in the local press reminding residents to present their white sacks for collection for 7:30 AM on their defined collection day is slowly being effective. This publicity has, however, prompted requests from over 200 residents who want to join the collection service. The requisite white sacks and collection calendars have been forwarded to all these residents. The collection crews will also supply white sacks direct to any resident who asks to join the initiative. It has also been noticed that there has been a marked reduction in the number of householders who request a white sacks to replace those lost after emptying, as the current collection crews are leaving emptied bags in more secure places than the previous regime.

Further publicity to encourage residents to participate in the service is being prepared.

It is important to note that the collections will be completed on the defined collection days, and this improvement in the reliability of the service will lead to an increase in the tonnage of paper collected. A further proposal is to eventually collect the paper and cardboard from properties on the same day that their wheeled bins are emptied.

At the time of writing, four fortnightly cycles of the collection have been completed. The increase in tonnage collected is still small, at 5% over the monthly tonnage collected by the contractor. Of significance, however, is that the tonnage of paper collected per month reduced by over 8% in the last 3 months of the contractor operated service. This steep rate of decline has been stopped and reversed.

As highlighted in the report to the May meeting of the Community Services Committee, a detailed evaluation of the in-house operation, to include the financial details, is to be presented to committee after 6 months of the operation of the in-house Service.

### 3 LARGER GREEN BIN SCHEME

Members are advised that the Tender for the supply and delivery of larger 240 litre green wheeled bins has been awarded to MGB Plastics Ltd, and that the total cost for the scheme is within budget.

The delay by Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) in resolving issues with their new Framework Agreement has resulted in extending the completion date for our scheme. Delivery of the larger bins will now commence on Monday 28 October 2013, with completion programmed for Friday 29 November 2013

Publicity and promotion of the scheme is continuing, with officers taking every opportunity to raise residents' awareness of the scheme.

In an effort to determine the number of non-gardened properties wishing to receive a green wheeled bin for their compostable food waste, and to encourage those who wish to "opt out", letters are to be sent within the next few weeks, requesting residents to let us know as soon as possible.

### 4 RVBC HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

**Innovation Funding - Best Foot Forward Programme:** Healthy Lifestyles have been successful in a funding bid to run a pilot Community Falls Prevention programme. This was an Innovation bid through Ribblesdale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and was one of only three successful bids. Healthy Lifestyles will take patients from the Falls Management programme at Clitheroe Hospital, and will also take people identified by their GP or Practice Nurse to be 'at risk' of falling. Last year in Ribble Valley, there were 59 falls-related hip fractures amongst the over 65s. The cost to treat one single hip fracture is around £13,000, not including aftercare, so this amounts to over £750,000 in total. The Best Foot Forward Programme will work with the East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT) Falls Team to help contribute to a reduction in falls and falls-related fractures. If the pilot is successful, it will be mainstreamed with a view to rolling out across East Lancashire.

**Year of Health and Well Being – A Healthy Active Lifestyle:** To launch Ribble Valley's Year of Health and Well Being, 11 Borough Councillors have signed up to a Healthy Active Lifestyle Programme. They have pledged to lose weight through eating a healthier diet, and being more active. RVBC Healthy Lifestyles Team will be guiding the recruits through their programme and, together, we have set an overall target of losing a minimum of 5% body weight by the end of November 2013.

### 5 ARTS DEVELOPMENT ROUNDUP OF ACTIVITY AUGUST 2013

#### **Spot On Lancashire**

Arts Development continues to support Spot On Lancashire to deliver their work within Ribble Valley. Spot On works with volunteers in isolated communities, promoting professional theatre, dance music, and theatre shows, for everyone to enjoy. This autumn's programme is now available, see their website for more information [www.spotonlancashire.co.uk](http://www.spotonlancashire.co.uk)

Grindleton Pavilion – The Boy Who Cried Wolf – Children  
Downham Village Hall – Static – Theatre  
Slaidburn Village – Twelve Miles From Nowhere – Theatre  
Whalley Village Hall – Twelve Miles From Nowhere – Theatre  
Tosside Community Hall – Six Impossible Things – Theatre  
Mellor Brook Community Centre – 1000 Years of Music – Music

In addition to their regular autumn and spring programmes, we also supported them to develop work with the Blaize Theatre Company and the local community. Young people of the Hodder Valley, Bowland Youth Club, and Slaidburn Youth Club, and members of the local community, worked with Blaize to create a theatrical production, using the Gisburn Forest's Stephen Park as its backdrop. There were four performances, and opportunities for the public to get involved in creative workshops at Tosside Community Hall prior to the performances. The "Gisburn Forest Guy" was the idea of local young people, who took part in a Preston Guild production commissioned for 2012 event.

All of this is made possible, thanks to support from Arts Council England Grants For the Arts, Spot On Lancashire, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Champion Bowland, and the Forestry Commission.

### **Ribble Valley Jazz Festival**

Arts Development supported 2013's Ribble Valley Jazz Festival. Our contribution was to help develop new aspects of the festival for this year's programme. The areas of development were Rural Outreach, bringing the "Clitheroe"-based festival into the more rural communities of Ribble Valley, and Youth Music encouraging the development of new talent in the borough.

### **Kiln and Canvas**

Kiln and Canvas is a new contemporary art market managed by Jenny Eaton, a Ribble Valley-based artist. In April 2013, their first market was held at Whitewell Social Hall, featuring works by eleven acclaimed ceramicists and artists from the North West. By contributing towards the promotion of this first event, we have supported a new event to develop within the borough.

### **Ribble Valley Art Studios**

Ribble Valley Art Studios is an exciting new independent initiative in the heart of Clitheroe. The studios provide affordable studio spaces for local artists, opportunities to exhibit in its gallery, and participate in collaborative projects. They offer studio spaces, exhibition and curating opportunities, as well as workshops, professional development, skill sharing, and peer support. Room available for hire by arts practitioners and learning providers. A contribution was given towards a marketing campaign to raise their profile across the Ribble Valley.

### **Arts Promotion**

We continue to support and promote the Arts across the Ribble Valley. I am currently working with other departments across the council to develop the What's On / Events section of the RVBC website. Once developed this will be a valuable tool in letting people know the wide variety of activity and events available here in the Ribble Valley, for both residents and visitors. I continue to use the Social Networks Facebook and Twitter to market events, and promote opportunities across the borough. I update the RVBC – Arts Development web page, and am developing the Ribble Valley Arts website to be an informative directory of Arts-based organisations and individuals, giving the public clear and direct access to the Ribble Valley creative community.

### **Cloudspotting**

This year, we have supported the Cloudspotting Music Festival, an independent Music, Food, and Beer Festival. By supporting the festival this year, we have helped the festival to develop its audience, and improve the artistic range of performance art on offer by securing Arts Council funding. This year, they are in their third year and trying their new venue, moving from Mitton to Stephen Park, Gisburn.

### **Platform Gallery - support and development**

Arts Development continues to support the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre. Now that the merged service has been up and running for over a year, I will work alongside the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Supervisors, and the Leisure and Sports Development Manager, to analyse its successes and failures, to review and

improve its development. Arts Development will be promoting the hire of the Education Gallery, to ensure the space has a varied programme of activity, maximising its income potential.

**Other current Arts Development projects;**

Community Rail  
Ribcaged Theatre Company – Development support  
Lancashire Museums – programming Stewards Gallery Clitheroe Castle Museum,  
Bowland Arts - AONB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2014  
Arts on Prescription  
Ribble Valley Arts needs survey  
Arts Excellence Grants  
Public Art Maintenance

**6 CONCLUSION**

These are recent developments and events within Community Services.

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For further information:

Larger Green Bin Scheme - Peter McGeorge 01200 414467  
Healthy Lifestyles – Tracy Balko 01200 414484  
Arts Development – Katherine Rodgers 01200 414556  
or [arts.development@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:arts.development@ribblevalley.gov.uk)  
Katherine currently works Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Community Services 3 Sept 13/General Report  
Terry Longden / Peter McGeorge / Tracy Balko / KatherineRodgers / IW