

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 27 MAY 2014
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

To update Committee on recent developments in Engineering Services, and to give a roundup of activities in the Arts Development section for the coming year.

2 ENGINEERING SERVICES

2.1 Award for a Gold Standard LLP

Engineering Services maintains a database of the addresses of all residential and commercial properties within the Borough, the database is collectively known as the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The LLPG is developing a new importance as our LLPG, along with those from all other local authorities in the country is being used in the compilation of a single, accurate and comprehensive nationwide property address database that will be used across all public sector and agencies, as well as being made available to private sector organisations. Linked to each property is a Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN). The database with its UPRNs has a multitude of uses, for example, when linked to National Insurance numbers, it becomes a powerful tool to combat fraud.

The Council is required to meet certain data quality standards when compiling data. A renewed focus has been applied to the compilation of our LLPG and as a result the Council has now achieved the defined Gold Standard in all eight measurable data categories. This achievement was recently recognised at the GeoPlace Exemplar awards when Ribble Valley Borough Council was named winner of the "Most Improved Address Data 2014" award over the other 348 contributing authorities.

No advance notification of the awards was given, and the Council's Local Land And Property Custodian Sarah Grimes accepted the award on behalf of the Council when attending the GeoPlace Seminar at Old Trafford last month.

2.2 Management of Events on the Highway

Members may be aware of recent developments that affect the management of events staged on the public highway. The changes, which are county wide, are as a result of a variation on the stance of the police who have previously provided support for some community or civil type events by providing a uniformed officer to direct traffic so that participants can march, process, or cross the public highway in relative safety.

The police withdrew this uniformed support earlier in the year but having reconsidered the matter have now reintroduced this support up until the 31 March 2015. This will only be for events that have previously had the benefit of police support. The organisers of new events on the highway will need to make and

agree appropriate arrangements for the safe operation of their event with Lancashire County Council as the highway authority.

After the 1 April 2015 all event organisers will need to plan and provide appropriate traffic management arrangements so that participants remain safe when on the public highway. Note that the exception to this is that the police will continue to support Remembrance type events.

As a way forward the county council are to develop a policy and the subsequent procedures and guidance for the safe operation of events on the highway. This documentation will be both applicable on the run up to the withdrawal of the police support and after its withdrawal. At this stage LCC intend to establish an accredited training programme that would enable event organisers to have members of the community suitably trained to enable them to direct traffic provided that the legal documentation for the road closure, which must be endorsed by the highway authority, is in place. These trained individuals will undertake the role that was previously provided by the police.

Note that it is the role of the county council as the highway authority and not Ribble Valley Borough Council, to liaise with event organisers to ensure that they develop and provide the necessary road safety arrangements.

The necessary legal documentation can be provided under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 by LCC which can cost the organiser between £800 and £1,500. An alternative LCC are proposing that they may authorise the district authorities, including Ribble Valley Borough Council, to provide the necessary closure under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 which can be a simpler and less costly process than utilising the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

The scope and extent of the potential work involved to this council is currently being evaluated. A report on the matter, detailing the implication for the council and the community is to be presented to a later meeting of this committee.

3 ARTS DEVELOPMENT ROUNDUP OF ACTIVITY

Bowland Revealed

In 2014, the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is celebrating 50 years since designation. As part of a wide programme of activity marking this anniversary, a major cultural festival will be held across the area, Bowland Revealed.

Bowland Revealed includes a series of commissions from major and emerging artists on the theme of Landmark. Also, a schools and community project called "50 Years In The Making, Looking Backwards – Looking Forwards". An artist will work with five schools in the Ribble Valley, to explore one of the decades since the designation of the AONB in 1964. They will create a visual timeline, which will be enriched with stories. Each artist will have a range of diverse approaches to the theme looking back, and their views of looking forward, taking into account the importance of the conservation and sustainable development of the AONB by 2064.

There will be two large-scale commissions from major artists, and two smaller commissions from emerging artists which will be sited and on public view for a period of six weeks in September/October 2014. It is envisaged that they will be an ambitious, site-specific artwork which will excite, challenge, and delight audiences, but have a deep awareness, understanding, and respect for the important landscape in which it will be sited. The project will employ a project manager to support and promote the successful delivery of the four commissions within the Forest of Bowland AONB, and to ensure that the artworks can be accessed safely by the public.

Bowland Revealed is a partnership project between the Forest of Bowland AONB, Lancashire County Council Arts Development, Ribble Valley Borough Council, and additional funding has been secured from Arts Council England.

Ribble Valley Borough Council, Arts Development, is contributing £3,000 for two years (2013/14 and 2014/15) towards this project, drawing in match funding from the other partners totalling £129,000 (Arts Council England £62,000, Lancashire County Council £45,000, Forest of Bowland AONB £13,000, Lancashire sustainable Transport Fund £3,000).

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. (£800 was awarded in 2013/14) See their website for more information www.spotonlancashire.co.uk

Ribble Valley Jazz Festival

Arts Development supported Ribble Valley Jazz Festival 2014. Our contribution was to help develop new aspects of the festival for this year's programme, supporting them to be a sustainable, high quality Ribble Valley event (£800 was awarded in 2013/14)

Arts Promotion

Arts Development continues to support and promote Arts across the Ribble Valley. The Social Networks Facebook and Twitter are used to market events and promote opportunities across the borough. A new email-out system is being developed to enable a more efficient method to get information out to residents and visitors (£370 2013/14). The Ribble Valley Arts website is to be developed to be an informative directory of Arts based organisations and individuals, giving the public clear and direct access to the Ribble Valley creative community, increasing the awareness of the broad spectrum of activity in the borough (£500 2013/14).

Art In The Garden

Arts Development is supporting a new event for the area, Art In The Garden. The event previously based in Salmesbury Bottoms for many years is relocating within the Ribble Valley. Event Organiser Janet Lord based in Cow Ark is opening up her garden to the public to showcase around 20 art and craft exhibitors, all set in her stunning 6-acre garden. (£200 was awarded in 2013/14)

Cloudspotting

Arts Development is supporting Cloudspotting 2014 - Music Festival, the independent Music, Food and Beer Festival. By supporting the festival this year, we are helping the festival to develop its audience. This year they are in their fourth year, and its second year at the Stephen Park venue in Gisburn (£500 was awarded in 2013/14).

Platform Gallery - support and development

The Arts Development Officer continues to support the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre's exhibition and events programme. Arts Development will be promoting the hire of the Education Gallery to ensure the space has a varied programme of activity, maximising the use of all areas of the venue and its income potential. We are working on a celebratory event for the Platform Gallery's 20th Anniversary on 24th May.

Other current Arts Development projects;

Lancashire Museums – programming Stewards Gallery Clitheroe Castle Museum (supported with Arts Development Officer time in kind),

Arts on Prescription

Ribble Valley Arts needs survey

Improvement of Arts Excellence Grant criteria.

Public Art Maintenance

Developing a two-year Arts Development Plan based on identified customer needs.

4 CONCLUSION

Further updates will be provided to future meetings of this Committee

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Ref: Community Services 27.5.14/TerryLongden/KatherineRodgers/IW