

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 14 OCTOBER 2014
title: GENERAL REPORT
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1 PURPOSE

To update Committee on recent developments in the Leisure and Sports section, and to inform on current activities at the Platform Gallery.

2 LEISURE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2.1 RIBBLESDALE POOL

A Partnership Provider Programme (P.P.P) is being set up with the Amateur Swimming Association (A.S.A.) with the aim of growing the Pool business through increased participation, improved provision of Learn to Swim Programmes, and maximised club relationships to support our aquatic needs. An Aquatic Improvement Plan is being produced to help focus the efforts of pool staff on key growth areas. There will specific emphasis on increasing participation across public swimming sessions, linking swimming to health improvement, and developing school swimming. An obligation of this agreement in return of the support from the ASA Aquatics Officer is that the Pool continues to deliver the A.S.A. National Swimming programme.

It is also proposed to have Ribble Valley representation in the recently formed East Lancashire Local Area Network which seeks to develop aquatic activity across three areas; Learn to Swim, Participation and Club Development.

2.2 IMPROVEMENT PLANS

As a prelude to any improvement schemes at the Pool, a customer user survey has been undertaken to collect views and opinions on the condition of the current facilities, and to gauge the feelings for the kind of improvements that are favoured by users across the reception and changing room areas. This information will be utilised in shaping any future scheme, which would be subject to funding availability.

2.3 ARTIFICIAL PITCH

The area designated specifically to Football has benefited from essential maintenance by removing a potential trip hazard to players. There have also been repairs and improvements to the netting and perimeter fence surround.

An application to Sport England for funding support towards the installation of a 3G artificial surface on the existing three tennis court area, has been unsuccessful for a second time, but it is proposed to submit a further re-application by November this

year, which will contain further improvements as detailed in feedback received from Sport England. It should be noted that the scheme was considered by Sport England to be strong against the assessment criteria, and suggested that a more robust Sports Development Plan would help to improve it further.

2.4 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Ribble Valley cycling forum, comprising of partners with an interest in developing cycling across the Borough, is working on a variety of initiatives, including the improvement of cycling infra-structure, safer cycling including delivery of 'Bikeability' in schools, and an events programme which is to feature a week-long festival of cycling in June 2015.

All the districts across Lancashire have joined together and contributed towards the creation of an integrated cycling offer. It is aimed to coordinate all cycling marketing across the county by creating a single point for cycling information. It is aimed to produce a recognised image and identity for cycling in Lancashire and potentially increase visitors to Ribble Valley.

2.5 CLUB HUB

The Sports Development Officer has created a new online directory for local amateur sports clubs. The 'Ribble Valley Club Hub' will be an online resource for clubs within the borough. Clubs will be able to have their own mini site or directory on the www.ribblevalley.gov.uk website. The Club Hub will be a great resource for anyone wanting to find a club, get back into sport, and get their children involved in sport. The Club Hub will contain important information, such as; where the club trains, training nights, web and social media information, qualified coach numbers, and any other relevant information. The onus will be on clubs to keep their details up to date. Sports Clubs are a fantastic resource within our local community, and people should be making full use of them - the Club Hub will enable this to happen. The Club Hub will be being rolled out to clubs over the coming months.

3 ARTS DEVELOPMENT ROUNDUP OF ACTIVITY October 2014

BOWLAND REVEALED

(a) *Landmarks*

Four contemporary *Landmarks* – artworks inspired by the landscape of Bowland - are now officially open to view as part of the Bowland Revealed arts programme. On 28th September, up to eighty people came along to the launch of the artworks which was a great success. Two buses toured around the Bowland sites showing off the new artworks and the stunning scenery. All councillors and management were invited to attend.

Gisburn Forest Hub, Langden Intake on the Trough Road, Beacon Fell Country Park and Jeffrey Hill on Longridge Fell are each hosting one of these specially made pieces, designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Forest of Bowland as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The four artists; Halima Cassell, Philippe Handford, Geraldine Pilgrim, and Salina Somalya have all been working hard over the summer to bring their visions to life.

Blackburn-based Halima is a sculptor with an international reputation, and has exhibited widely in the UK and abroad. Her work combines strong geometric elements with recurrent patterns found in nature and her Landmark, *Sun Catcher*, is sited at Jeffrey Hill – a favourite spot for Halima offering a panoramic viewpoint over the Bowland fells.

Philippe Handford has embraced a wide creative spectrum, from product designer to sculptor and environmental artist. Philippe's piece, *Out-Take*, has been installed in a natural clearing formed by tall trees at Langden Intake near Dunsop Bridge. Speaking about the location Philippe said, "Often these wild locations offer challenges of material, weather and natural element that help inspire unique site-specific structures."

Beauty, has been designed by Geraldine Pilgrim and is on show at Beacon Fell Country Park. A highly acclaimed artist, Geraldine works across theatre and the visual arts, her work having been commissioned by organisations including English Heritage and the National Trust. Geraldine was inspired by the atmosphere of the woodland at this popular venue and hopes her work will encourage visitors to view it in a new light.

Salina Somalya is a national artist working predominantly in metal. Lancashire-based Salina, whose piece, *Celeste*, is on view at Gisburn Forest Hub said, "All my artworks are individual and predominantly inspired by nature, natural forms, and architecture." *Celeste* has been carefully sited to capture the view through the trees to the waters and beyond.

The artworks will be on show until 9th November 2014 and the project organisers are encouraging people to share their photographs of the Landmarks via Twitter: @forestofbowland #brlandmarks

Each site will have information about the artwork on view and why the artist found that particular location so special. A *Landmarks* leaflet has also been produced and will be available from local Tourist Information Centres, selected businesses and other venues.

Bowland Revealed is a partnership project between Lancashire County Arts Development, the Forest of Bowland AONB and Ribble Valley Borough Council. The partners are grateful for the support of the Forestry Commission, United Utilities, Thornley Hall Farm and Lancashire County Council's Countryside Service and Lancashire Highway Services.

The Landmarks project has received £62,000 funding from Arts Council England via their Grants for the Arts fund and is managed by Mid Pennine Arts. Additional funding has been provided by the partner organisations.

Bowland Revealed is a new, inspiring programme of contemporary art in the outstanding natural beauty of The Forest of Bowland. Set in breath-taking countryside, Bowland Revealed is a two part project, *Landmarks* commissions a programme of ambitious temporary artworks within the landscape and *Explore and Engage* - opportunities to meet artists and take part in high quality art experiences - Celebrating 50 years since the Forest of Bowland's designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Bowland Revealed offers a range of creative encounters to inspire, to engage, and to enjoy.

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was designated in 1964 and is one of the family of 46 AONB's in Britain. AONBs are designated in

recognition of their national importance and to ensure that their character and qualities are protected for all to enjoy.

(b) 50 years in the making

Part two of the Bowland Revealed project is '50 years in the making' a project creating engagement opportunities to meet artists and take part in high quality art experiences.

Saturday 27th September saw the successful launch of the *Bowland Revealed FREE artistic workshops programme*, which will run for the next two months across the six districts of the Forest of Bowland.

The first workshop held at Garstang Academy, featured Stone Carver and Artist Lucy Cortese, giving a short demonstration of stone carving techniques, enabling participants to produce a small plaque of their own. A wonderful array of relief carvings resulted.

Families are invited to get involved and enjoy and explore new art media. The free workshops, each run by a professional artist, cover ceramics, photography, textiles, drawing and environmental art & design.

50 years in the Making is project managed by Green Close of Melling on behalf of the Bowland Revealed partners.

Lancaster: Environmental Art & Design
with Philippe Handford
Venue: Green Close Studios, Melling
Date: Saturday 4th October 2014 10am-4pm

Craven: Photography with
Veronica Caperon
Venue: Eldroth Church
Date: Saturday 18th October 2014 10am-4pm

Ribble Valley: Textiles with Priscilla Jones
Venue: Slaidburn Village Hall.
Date: Saturday 25th October 2014 10am-4pm

Preston: Drawing with Pat Ellacott
Venue: Beacon Fell Visitor Centre, nr. Preston
Date: Saturday 22nd November 2014 10am-4pm

Pendle: Ceramics with Julie Miles
Venue: Higherford Mill, Barrowford
Date: Saturday 29th November 2014 10am-4pm

(c) Looking Backwards – Looking Forwards

In October, five schools in the area will have the opportunity to engage in creative art activities as part of a Ribble Valley Schools Showcase, in celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Forest of Bowland, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status.

Green Close, visual arts organisation of Melling, North Bowland are leading the new programme of creative engagement in the Ribble Valley to explore how Bowland has evolved since it's inauguration in 1964. Young pupils from the area

will be asked to research and consider their role in the future of this valuable landscape.

Each school will work with an artist to focus on one decade of the fifty years and their artwork will be exhibited at the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe between 25th and 27th November.

The Ribble Valley Schools Showcase follows the successful Bowland Revealed exhibition held in three Galleries across Clitheroe in August.

Bowland High School - 1964-74

Artist: Gonzalo Araoz

20 year 8 pupils

Bolton By Bowland Primary School -1974-84

Artist: Pete Flowers

22 juniors (2 classes)

Grindleton Primary School 1984-94

Artist: Veronica Caperon

25 juniors (2 classes)

Waddington & West Bradford C of E Primary Schools 1994-2004

Artist: Jenny McCabe

12-20 members of the art club.

St Mary's RC Primary School, Chipping 2004-2014

Artists: Rob & Christine Coleman

19 key stage 2 (2 classes) 12 key stage 1

Other current Arts Development projects;

Steward's Gallery, Clitheroe Castle Museum programming support

Arts on Prescription

Ribble Valley Arts needs survey

Improvement of Arts Excellence Grant criteria

Public Art Maintenance

Developing an Arts Development Plan for 2015

Platform Gallery – Exhibition, Education and Craft Shop programming support

Ribble Valley Arts Promotion

Spot On Lancashire

4 **CONCLUSION**

Further information will be provided to members in future meetings of this Committee.

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