

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 1 SEPTEMBER 2015
title: GENERAL REPORT
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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update on progress and activities within Leisure and Sports Development, and Arts Development.

2 LEISURE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Ribblesdale Pool Installation of new chemical dosing equipment

A new way of chemically dosing the Main and Teaching pools is now in place. The Hypolyser electrochlorination system provides an on-demand supply of sodium hypochlorite solution generated by the electrolysis of diluted brine solution.

The main benefits that are expected to be realised from the operation of the new equipment are;

- **Safety:** The chlorine solution is below the hazardous threshold, and injection point cleaning descaling tasks are eliminated.
- **Economy:** The cost of using water, salt, and electricity in producing chlorine is considerably cheaper than using commercially produced chemicals, as was used previously.
- **Effectiveness:** The Sodium Hypochlorite solution does not require chemicals or additives to retain its chlorine content, and does not degrade like commercial strength sodium hypochlorite.
- **Environmental protection:** The level of accidental spillage is reduced owing to reduced handling and operator involvement.

This system has replaced dosing equipment that has been extremely problematic and expensive to maintain over recent years.

2.2 Installation of a new 3G Surface

The area which contains 3 Tennis Courts is to be replaced with a 3G Artificial surface for the playing of Football specifically. Work is set to commence on the 28th September and will take 3 weeks to complete. Existing users of this facility have been notified and there are alternative smaller artificial surface areas available to accommodate displacement if users wish to switch to the other pitches.

2.3 **Summer Holiday Children's Activity**

The Summer Activity Scheme 2015 is currently taking place and, besides the booklet being crammed full of sporting, cultural, and education activity for children and young people across the borough, the scheme is also allowing those on the lowest of incomes to have a little bit of fun, excitement, and engagement. New for 2015 is the Partner Referral Programme, designed to allow those of greatest need, access to Summer Activities. The scheme so far has had 25 children accessing sporting play schemes, educational visits, qualification training, and children's clubs – totalling more than £1600 to date with more funding available. Agencies working with these young people are the ones that 'refer' them onto the scheme, examples being children's centres and food banks. The scheme has been created, organised, and administered by Ribble Valley Borough Council, but funded by Lancashire County Council Children's Trust.

2.4 **Playing Pitches Strategy**

The auditing of playing pitches across the Borough (Football, Rugby, and Cricket), has now been completed, and Sports Club Survey Forms are currently being circulated to collect information on the number of teams, demand for playing pitches, and further information on club facilities. This will be analysed and utilised to:

- Assess the type, quality, and usage of Playing Pitch provision across the study area;
- Identify which pitches require improvement, and where release for other uses may be appropriate;
- Provide evidence-based information for the Local Plan Development Plan Documents.

3 **HEALTHY LIFESTYLE SERVICES**

This Council has been managing Healthy Lifestyle services for over fifteen years. Currently, there are health improvement programmes commissioned by Public Health Lancashire (Lancashire County Council LCC), and specialist programmes for cardiac rehabilitation, and falls prevention, commissioned by East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning group

The lifestyle programmes are very successful. Last year, 502 people accessed the 12-week programmes, and 322 completed 12 weeks and reported health improvements (64%, which is above the threshold of 50% set by LCC).

There were 96 new walkers to the Stepping Out walks programme, which has between 400-500 attendances a month.

Current total value for the contracts is £90,364. The contract is until April 2016. The current situation is that all contracts with LCC across Lancashire have been served notice, and there will be a re-procurement process beginning in September. To date, full details of the scope are not known, but it is known that there will be five contracts, mirroring the five CCG areas. The Healthy Lifestyles section is currently working with partners in the East Lancashire CCG area to put together a collaborative bid for the East Lancashire contract.

4 PLATFORM GALLERY & VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE ROUNDUP OF ACTIVITY - AUGUST 2015

4.1 Exhibitions 2015

- **Spring**
Creativity within the Beauty

The arts and crafts within and around The Forest of Bowland are as unique, diverse and beautiful as the wildlife, landscape, habitats and eco-systems, for which the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) represents and cares. 2014 saw the 50th Anniversary of The Forest of Bowland being designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, providing us with the inspiration for this unique opportunity to showcase the artistic talent found within, and inspired by, this stunning landscape.

At the Platform Gallery, from 24th Jan to 11th April 2015, and the Artroom Gallery, Garstang, from 29th Jan to 12th May 2015.

Visitors Comments

"Congratulations to all creatives! Worth coming back to 'stand and stare' again and invest in a true piece of art, good luck all" Clitheroe

"Diverse Talents in Bowland" Lancaster

"Lovely exhibition, nice to see some pictures and creative work inspired by the Lancashire Landscape and its heritage" Chorley

"This gallery gets better, better!" Clitheroe

- **Summer**
Craft Open 2015

Platform Gallery's Craft Open from April 25 to July 4, features the work of the finest craftspeople from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside.

The exhibition includes woven, stitched, felted and constructed textiles, ceramics, jewellery, metalwork, woodwork, furniture, glass, calligraphy, and mixed media, as well as pieces that are two or three-dimensional.

Visitors to the exhibition voted for Juliet Tomkins – Colne to win the People's Choice Prize. The Selectors' Prize for Innovation was awarded to Diana Barret from York, and the winner of the Ribble Valley prize was Norman Kelly from Grindleton.

Visitor Comments

"Nice to see real artists still exist"

"Lovely work really inspiring"

"Well worth the visit, excellent artworks and a lovely space, thank you"
Blackpool

"Wonderful" USA

- **Autumn**
Black Sheep; the darker side of felt

Felt is the most ancient constructed textile in the world and, in its long and fascinating history, it has been used for everything from military armour to housing, from cosy winter garments to conceptual art. This exhibition is an exploration of the edgier side of this extraordinary and versatile material, looking at artists who create sometimes disturbing and bizarre oddities, and technically brilliant objects. A touring exhibition from the National Centre for Craft and Design.

Visitor Comments

“Everything here is amazing especially from Marjolein Darlinga” Malaysia

“So different the children loved it” Billington

“Having done some felting my arms ache in sympathy and my mind is inspired” Burnley

“Glad we decided to call in. Some stunning, some amusing works”

- **Winter**
Northern Star 2015

A dazzling array of British craft talent in our annual winter exhibition.
From 17 October – 9 January.

4.2 **Education Gallery**

February: 21 Priscilla Jones Sculpture Workshop, 28 Chrissy Webster Glass Workshop

March: 14 Samantha Taylor Jewellery Workshop, 21 Lesley Woods Chocolate Talk/Demonstration

June: 8 to 25 St Mary’s College Blackburn A level exhibition, 28 Chrissy Webster - Garden Mosaic Plaque Workshop,

August: until 21 Norman Kelly Calligraphy Exhibition, 8 Maison The Pop Up Cafe, 9 Norman Kelly free workshop, 15 Lesley King felt making workshop, 16 Norman Kelly bookmaking workshop, 19 Priscilla Jones Workshop, 26 – 10 September Clare Drew Photography Exhibition, 29 Lesley King Felt making workshop.

September: 5 Lesley King felt making workshop, 12-28 Etcetera Textiles Exhibition, 16 Lesley King felt making workshop

October: 3 Chrissy Webster Stained Glass Workshop, 3 Laura Mabbutt Feltmaking Talk 23-24 Sam Taylor Jewellery Exhibition, 26-31 Lancashire Hot Potters Ceramics Exhibition,

November: 7 Chrissy Webster Stained glass Workshop, 9-14 Graham Hough Ceramics Exhibition, 16-23 Earthly Delights Ceramics Exhibition.

VISITOR NUMBERS

2015	
Month	Visitors
March	3958
April	3869
May	3574
June	1724

4.3 Sunday Opening

As a trial for 2015, the Platform Gallery is open on Sundays from 3rd May – 6th September, and 6th – 20th December, 11am – 4pm. Visitor numbers so far are:

May	
3	120
10	70
17	64
24	81
31	82
June	
7	85
14	94
21	95
28	93
July	
5	83
12	52
26	51
August	
2	101
9	62
16	89
23	TBC
30	TBC
September	
6	TBC
December	
6	TBC
13	TBC
20	TBC

5 **CONCLUSION**

That further developments and activities within the directorate will be reported to future committees.

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Community Services/ 1.9.15/IW