

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 30 OCTOBER 2018
 title: GENERAL REPORT
 submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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 MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES
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 KATHERINE RODGERS, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
 PETER FLETCHER, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

To inform on arrangements for Christmas parking, and to update on matters within Cultural and Leisure Services, namely, Ribchester Allotments, Ribblesdale Pool, Arts Development with the Platform Gallery and Visitor Information Centre, Sports Development, and Edisford Fun Fair.

2 CHRISTMAS CAR PARKING

To support the Retail Sector and the local economy, the Council has offered free parking in town centre car parks on Saturdays in December for Clitheroe and Longridge. The town centre car parks affected are Railway View, Lowergate, and Market, Clitheroe, and Barclay Road, Longridge.

It is proposed this year that the Council offers free parking on the following Saturdays:

2 December
 9 December
 16 December
 23 December

3 RIBCHESTER ALLOTMENTS

The Council has recently approved a new lease for the allotments in Ribchester, as requested by the Parish Council. The previous lease was for 6 years and ran until the end of September 2018, the new one is for the same period and terms, the rent payable will rise by RPI as is the normal arrangement for land leased from the Council.

The allotments are a popular community site where a number of the local people derive not only considerable health benefits from their work there, but also from the produce or plants which they grow.

The lease is below 7 years, because that is the trigger point for registry with the Land Registry, which is more expensive and legally more cumbersome for the parties involved, which for the allotments is not necessary as the current arrangement works well.

4 RIBBLESDALE POOL CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT SCHEME - QUEST

The facility has recently undertaken an external assessment of the whole operation and achieved QUEST entry registration. The one day assessment comprised a thorough examination of the facilities performance against various service categories, including;

Planning to Improve, Community Outcomes, Team and Skill Development, Cleaning and Housekeeping, Maintenance and Equipment, which all were reported as good, and Customer Experience and Insight, and Environmental were reported as Satisfactory. The overall Banding with Health and Safety taken into account was Good. (There are no higher bandings at the first year of entry).

The process of assessment also included a mystery visit experience and the strengths and areas for improvement which were detailed in the final report will serve as a basis for subsequent staff meetings and formulation of an improvement action plan. The registration period is for 1 year and there is an option to convert from Entry Level to Quest Plus which then enables the facility to be assessed against selected specific modules and the opportunity to access Satisfactory, Good, Very Good, and Excellent bandings.

In an attempt to compare the performance of the Pool operation against equivalent facilities elsewhere in the country, the facility is undertaking an Efficiency Report which is an option provided by the National Benchmarking Service. This concentrates on finance and utilisation information completed as a financial return.

5 ARTS DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Artwalk Clitheroe

Artwalk Clitheroe is a series of events that highlights a 2km walking route to enjoy the Clitheroe galleries, allowing visitors to start their journey anywhere along the route and take in the cultural atmosphere of the town. The galleries currently featured are Knowle Top Studios, Longitude Gallery, Platform Gallery, Atelier Arts (formerly Ribble Valley Arts Studios), The Keep, and the Steward's Gallery.

The event is essentially self-sustaining with each venue contributing towards the marketing costs of the project. Rather than being in competition, each venue shares their audiences with the aim of highlighting the unique hub of galleries in Clitheroe. By creating events when all venues are open, visitors can plan a full day focused purely on visiting the galleries, creating a unique visitor experience for Ribble Valley residents and tourists.

In 2018, the collective has put on three events - on Sundays 11am-4pm:

25 March, 24 June, 9 September

The partnership has been very pleased with how the venture has developed in its second year. The events have continued to encourage visitors to explore new unknown galleries, with many doing the Artwalk in their own time outside of the event days using the leaflet /map created by the group.

More dates for events in 2019 are planned, new venues are approaching us to join the partnership, and The Arts Development Officer is working with the RVBC Legal department to adapt a relevant structure for the group to develop in future.

To find out more, call in at any of the participating galleries, pick up a copy of the Clitheroe Artwalk Map, or find us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/artwalkevent/>

Ribble Valley Arts: <http://www.rvarts.co.uk/artwalk-clitheroe/>

5.2 Public Art

The **Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail** based within Brungerley Park and Cross Hill Nature Reserve. A new leaflet has been created relaunching the trail in March 2018. In May, families from Waddington and West Bradford school were invited to an event for them to enjoy the park, explore the outdoors, keep fit whilst enjoying the creativity of the sculptures and the natural beauty of the area. Arts Development, The Wildlife Trust and Ribblesdale Children's Centre provided free activities for them to enjoy, including a walkabout picture hunt, badge making, bunting making, forest school activities, guided tour, bug hunt in the quarry, and an evening bat walk.

Arts Development will continue to run maintenance checks on the public art at:

- **Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail**
Brungerley Park and Cross Hill Nature Reserve
- **The Labyrinth**
within the Castle Grounds
- **The Sculpture/Nature and Orienteering Trail**
at John Smith's Playing Fields in Longridge
- **The Community Rose Garden**
based within the grounds of the Clitheroe Castle Park

5.3 Ribble Valley Arts

www.rvarts.co.uk is a website supporting Ribble Valley creative industries, giving the public direct access to the events and businesses based in the borough. The website is managed by Ribble Valley Borough Council – Arts Development. Arts practitioners based in the Ribble Valley vary from hobbyists to professionals, across the full spectrum of the arts. The Arts Directory contains the creative talents and skills based within the borough. The Events & Venues sections highlight key arts events and places to visit. People can keep updated on Ribble Valley arts activity by subscribing to the Ribble Valley Arts e-newsletter, following @RVBCArtsDev on twitter, or Arts Development, Ribble Valley Borough Council on Facebook. People who work in the Arts and are based in the Ribble Valley, are invited to feature on the website. Arts Development is looking into the feasibility of holding a celebratory Ribble Valley Arts event in early 2019.

5.4 Souper Wednesdays - Dementia Friendly Respite Sessions

In support of the Housing, and Regeneration, sections' newly set up Souper Wednesdays group, Arts Development is providing suitable art and craft sessions. The sessions are aimed at people living with dementia, providing them and their carers with respite, and are based at Langho and Billington Community Centre, Whalley Road, Langho, BB6 8AB, 11am-2pm Wednesdays: 19 September; 3, 17, 31 October; 14, 28 November. People are invited along to join the group for soup and a roll, and each time are offered different relaxing activities, including chanting, drumming circle, singing for the brain, pampering, arts & crafts. Carers are welcome to stay, or leave the person they are caring for in the safe hands of trained dementia specialists from Crossroads Care. They will pay £10 per session, carers £5 per session. Currently supported by funding from NHS's Clinical Commissioning Group, the sessions will be evaluated with potential to develop in the future.

6 PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Arts Development continues to support the Supervisor of the Platform Gallery & Visitor Information Centre to develop: Exhibitions, the Craft Shop, The Mix, and other projects.

6.1 Exhibition programme 2018

- **Marvellous Mechanicals** 19 January – 24 March

This was a celebration of the makers and tinkerers who explore movement in their art. Featuring a range of sculptures, from beautifully simple wooden automata to bespoke machines and homemade robotics, Marvellous Mechanicals engaged and inspired all ages.

- **Craft Open** 14 April – 23 June

The Platform Gallery's annual exhibition is known for highlighting the wealth of talented craft makers surrounding the Platform Gallery, connecting visitors with local contemporary makers and their crafts. Awards were presented for a Selectors' Prize, Ribble Valley Prize, Best Newcomer Prize, and the People's Prize. There was a chance for visitors to cast their vote on the exhibit that had inspired them the most.

- **Women in British History** 7 July – 15 September

An exhibition of works by Katch Skinner who uses traditional commemorative ware to look at just a small selection of amazing women who left their mark throughout British history. Commemorative ware has been used to document events from political satire to holiday souvenirs, and has been used as a social indicator of the times. The work challenged the male dominance of commemorative ware, and pays tribute to female trailblazers and visionaries who helped change society.

- **Decorum** 7 July – 15 September

This was an exhibition by Decorum, four women artists, Priscilla Edwards, Val Jackson, Yvonne Noworyta, Christine Stanford. Decorative embellishment has been used for thousands of years, and signifies our love of freedom and the celebration of humankind. Each artist's work shared intriguing notes of nostalgia, linked together through social historical influences.

- **Northern Star 2018** 29 September – 5 January 2019

Showcasing the best of British making, Northern Star guides you to the best of British craft talent this winter, providing inspiration for that perfect handmade gift or treat, with over fifty makers on display. Join us as we celebrate creativity this Christmas season!

6.2 Craft Shop

At any one time, the Craft Shop displays up to thirty makers, in themes such as:

- **Platform Presents** – introducing new makers
- **Souvenirs** – handcrafted souvenirs specific to the Ribble Valley and Lancashire
- **A Maker's Dozen** – popular artists that customers love
- **Pop Up exhibitions** – themed displays throughout the year
eg food-related pieces for the Clitheroe Food Festival

6.3 The Mix

This is the space being developed for use by the community, and will be available for hire.

6.4 Other ongoing Arts Development projects

These include Arts Excellence and Arts Development Grants, and Health & Wellbeing.

7 KESTOR LANE RECREATION GROUND, LONGRIDGE

Following the approval at September's Community Services Committee for the above to be registered as a Centenary Field with Fields in Trust, officers completed the work of agreeing the contract with FiT, and completed the legal work from the Borough's perspective in record time according to FiT. From the date of committee to the contract being sent to FiT complete by the RVBC, 9 working days elapsed.

The Council has now received the completed and sealed contract from FiT, which makes the land a Centenary Field. The final element of registration with the Land Registry, which the Borough Council, as Landowner, has to undertake, has begun, though this has no impact from a contractual perspective on the agreement which has been entered into between the Council and FiT. Therefore, from a practical and legal perspective, officers have completed the Community Services Committee's recommendation, and the dedication of Kestor Lane Recreation Ground as Centenary Field will take place at a ceremony on 11 November 2018, in Longridge.

A licence to occupy has been issued to Longridge Town Council for them to install and be responsible thereafter for the memorial stone that is to be located adjacent to the play area. The details are the same as used for the memorial at Ribchester, whereby the small piece of land on which the stone is sited, and the memorial itself, is legally licenced to the Town Council for £1 per year. The work commenced by contractors on behalf of Longridge Town Council in mid-October, in time for the November ceremony.

8 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

8.1 This Girl Can - Feel Good, Look Great!

In May 2018, the Council Sports Development Officer secured £3k funding to deliver a 'This Girl Can' scheme. The project looks to get more women and girls active. Participants on the scheme can get supported access into sport or physical activity. The scheme does only target those women and girls who are inactive and contributes towards the Sport England aim to get more people active across the country. The uniqueness of the scheme is that participants are referred through partner hair and beauty salons, and rewarded with discount at those partner salons. So far, the scheme has been really popular and had a good response. It is hoped that the evidence gained from this project may provide an evidence-base, to secure further inactivity funding.

8.2 Pitch Improvements

Summer 2018 has provided some significant challenges for the Grounds Maintenance team, with the severely hot conditions causing cracks to appear on the pitches. This followed a severely cold and, at times, wet winter. However, the recent investment by the Council in new land drainage equipment (Verti-drain & Shockwave) is planned to help the pitches have much better surfaces for players in the future, better able to cope with the vagaries of the weather, especially in the winter which, across Lancashire, leads to hundreds of postponed matches.

In addition, new line marking machines, and improved quality marking paints, have been purchased, which both save staff time, and provide much better quality of line. Both these initiatives contribute to the Council achieving a higher quality of open space for all our junior and senior sports teams.

8.3 Summer Activities 2018

The Sports Development Officer has once again produced a 'Summer Activities in the Ribble Valley' booklet 2018. The booklet provides all young people in Ribble Valley with an exciting range of activity over the six week summer holiday period. 10,000 copies of the booklet are distributed to all RV schools and supporting organisations in early July 2018. The booklet has been widely received by schools, parents, and young people as a valuable tool in finding and choosing activities over the summer period. The booklet is fully funded by sponsors, and is designed and printed locally in Longridge.

9 EDISFORD FUN FAIR

The fair, staged on Edisford car park, was held on 18-21st October, and there was some consultation with local residents on Edisford to gain their views on the impact of car parking as a result of the fair's operation.

Letters were sent to Vicarage Close and the houses on Edisford Road, from Lancaster Drive to the start of the yellow lines. There was limited feedback in response to cones being placed down part of the road to help control indiscriminate parking.

The fair, normally held in April and October each year, is the only one in Clitheroe. If the car park was not available to it, there would be no annual fair held in the town, because there is no other hard standing area large enough and available to accommodate it.

A report may be tabled at the next Committee with further feedback following the event, to determine whether the car park may be used for the fair in the future.

10 CONCLUSION

Further items and updates will be included at future meetings of this Committee.

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For further information on Engineering Services,
please contact Adrian Harper 01200 414523

For further information on Ribchester Allotments, Kestor Lane Recreation Ground,
and Edisford Fun Fair, please contact Mark Beveridge 01200 414479

For further information on Ribblesdale Pool,
please contact Colin Winterbottom 01200 414588

If you would like more information on any of the Arts Development projects, or Platform Gallery,
please contact Katherine Rodgers: katherine.rodgers@ribblevalley.gov.uk

For further information on Sports Development,
please contact Peter Fletcher 01200 414435

Community Services 30.10.18 / AH, MB, CW, KR, PF / IW