



meeting

COUNTY COUNCIL

date

28th June 2007

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND REGENERATION

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO JUNE 2007

1. The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council.

Culture

Libraries

Official re-opening of Sutton-In-Ashfield Library

2. Following a major refurbishment, costing over £500,000, the Leader officially re-opened Sutton-in-Ashfield Library on 8th June. The refurbishment, which included structural alterations, complete internal redecoration, new shelving and furniture, and £50,000 worth of brand new stock, has turned a tired looking 1970's building into a vibrant, attractive and welcoming library which has already received a very positive response from the local community.
3. The library hosted a week of exciting free events for both adults and children. There were quizzes and games, computer lessons and family history courses, displays and new book collections to which everyone was welcome.

Exhibition of 100 Great Photographs, West Bridgford Library

4. An exhibition of photographs by some of the country's leading photographers was on display at West Bridgford Library (2nd May to 2nd June). This touring exhibition was open to members of The Royal Photographic Society and takes place every two years. It is a chance for members to showcase the high standard of their work and to demonstrate their commitment to the art of photography.
5. The hundred prints chosen for this year's exhibition came from a high number of entries and showcased a variety of styles and techniques across the society's national and international membership. It was a privilege for the library to be chosen as a venue, one of five across the country during the year.

6. The Royal Photographic Society was founded in 1853 to 'promote the Art and Science of Photography'. It offers various levels of qualifications in photographic skills and runs an extensive programme of lectures and events throughout the United Kingdom and abroad, through local groups and special interest groups.

Adult Learners' Week

Family and Local Studies Day

7. A 'Family and Local Studies Day' was held at Worksop Library on 24th May. Throughout the day both library staff and a representative of the local Family History Group were on hand to answer questions about researching family trees, and other aspects of the history of Worksop.
8. There were also displays illustrating the types of local history material available at the library, including: historic photographs and maps; a history of Worksop Scouts in their centenary year; and a feature on Sir John Robinson, colourful Victorian brewer, entrepreneur, racehorse breeder, and generous benefactor to Worksop. In addition to these traditional materials the public were also able to make use of Ancestry.co.uk, one of the new online resources now provided by the library service.
9. The *Worksop Roll of Honour*, originally commissioned by the Worksop Borough Council to commemorate the many Worksop men who fell in the 1914-1918 Great War was also available for viewing.
10. The highlight of the day was a talk by Peter Lester from the Nottinghamshire Archives on 'Discovering the Archival Heritage', which explored mediaeval charters, historic maps, diaries, parish records and other archives.

Healthy eating barbeque

11. A barbeque was held at Worksop Library on 24th May to celebrate Adult Learners' Week. This was the highlight of a healthy eating promotion and was organised by library staff and the Food Technology Department from North Nottinghamshire College. Students from the college prepared and cooked healthy, imaginative food for members of the public and provided nutritious smoothies to sample. Library staff promoted bookstock, information to take away and a healthy food facts quiz and other activities. The event was well attended by a wide range of members of the public, and the fine weather was an added bonus to a successful example of partnership working.

The Orange Prize at Worksop and Retford Libraries

12. On 6th June, Worksop and Retford Libraries ran simultaneous successful 'Orange Evenings', based around the announcement of the winner of the prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction. Each of the 6 shortlisted books had a "champion" to convince our eager audiences why it should win, and a vote took place to decide the winner from each town. They were both very

enjoyable evenings and the public had great fun discussing their choices and seeing if they matched the national judges.

Southwell Library

13. Southwell Library, housed in the Bramley Centre, hosted several events for this year's Southwell Festival. On 12th June, we spent "An evening with Billy Ivory". Billy Ivory, who was a pupil at the local Minster School, told stories and anecdotes from his life as an actor (he has appeared on Coronation Street) and as a writer whose plays have been shown on television to great acclaim. On 13th June, local resident Geoffrey Bond spoke on "Byron and his publishers". Mr Bond, a local solicitor and authority on Byron, described the poet's writing and his relationship with his publishers. On 14th June, at "Poets from Southwell", local poets from the area read their own and favourite poems with an "open mike" session for all-comers in the second half of the evening. On 16th June, after a morning of craft activities in the Library, the Southwell Mobile took part in the festival parade to Burgage Green where the afternoon was spent doing children's activities and giving out promotional leaflets.

Ollerton Library

14. In Ollerton Library on June 19th, library users were introduced to the art of crochet as the latest in the series of 'Have you tried...?' events to stimulate informal learning. This session was preceded by reflexology, arranging spring flowers, drawing your pets, Christmas wreaths and decoupage sessions.

Children's activities

15. During the Spring half-term holiday, craft activities for children took place at Newark, Farnsfield and Ollerton Libraries, and on June 1st, the story-telling team from the Southwell Workhouse (National Trust) visited Newark Library to share stories about the Workhouse's past with an appreciative audience of children and parents/carers.

Sherwood Polish and Eastern European event

16. Staff from Newark Library participated in the Newark and Sherwood Polish and Eastern European Event at Holy Trinity Church on 23rd June. The event aimed to give information from a variety of service providers to the Polish and East European community, and the library was able to promote its services to potential customers.

Country Parks & Open Spaces

Living History Weekends, Rufford Country Park

17. Two of four 'Rufford through the Ages', living history weekends took place over the weekends of 19th and 20th May, and 9th and 10th June. Organised on behalf of the County Council by EventPlan Limited, the first historical re-enactment covered the medieval period and the second the English Civil War. Feedback from both visitors and those taking part in both events was

extremely favourable. Two more living history weekends will be held during the summer. The first of these, which takes place over the weekend on 7th and 8th July, will focus on Roman Britain, while the second, which will take place on 18th and 19th August, features life on the Home Front during the period 1939-45.

Robin Hood Festival, Sherwood Forest Country Park

18. Sherwood Forest's annual Robin Hood Festival will be taking place from 30th July to 5th August. Arrangements for this year's event are currently being finalised. The 2007 Festival is being supported by Experience Nottinghamshire, who have secured funding from the Alliance SSP to support festival development and event welcoming in Nottinghamshire. Country parks staff are also working closely with the Living Landmarks team to maximise publicity for the BIG Lottery bid at the event.
19. Distribution of the 2007 Festival programmes started at the end of May, to coincide with the Spring half term school holidays.

Nottinghamshire Landscape Challenge Fund 2007/08

20. The Greenwood Community Forest Team recently launched the third round of The Nottinghamshire Landscape Challenge Fund (NLCF). The scheme is designed to encourage significant and sustainable landscape improvements in key areas of Nottinghamshire. Target areas for the third year of the project include the Sherwood Sandlands and Nottinghamshire Dumbles areas within the Greenwood Community Forest. The scheme (total fund circa £100,000 - Forestry Commission's England Woodland Grant Scheme and Nottinghamshire County Council's Building Better Communities scheme) provides financial incentives and professional advice to landowners and land managers to encourage large-scale improvements such as woodland creation.
21. During the pilot phase (2005/07) over 20 hectares of new Oak-Birch woodland has been planted.

Park Life

22. Park Life is a physical activity project aimed at encouraging people to access seven parks and green spaces in and around the Greenwood Community Forest. As part of the project, a second annual walking festival was held from 22nd May to 6th June. The festival was aimed at those at risk from poor health and encouraged people to take part in short walks on sites close to where they lived. This year's festival attracted more walkers than last year and included a family treasure trail, Nordic walking, and a toddlers' storytelling walk.
23. The second annual cycling festival will be held from 27th July to 5th August.

Greenwood Community Awards Ceremony

24. The Greenwood Community Awards Ceremony was held on 27th June at Titchfield Park, and the Making It Museum, in Mansfield. The event celebrated achievements by individual volunteers and Friends groups who help maintain and encourage the use of parks and green spaces within the Greenwood Community Forest. A tasty barbecue was provided by social enterprise, Rumbles Catering, and was followed by a review of the past year by the Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum.
25. Councillor Jim Napier, Chair of the Greenwood Partnership, presented awards for outstanding contribution.

Arts

Way Out Fest at Rufford Abbey

26. For the past six years the Arts Service has been running additional events in the north of the county made possible by European Regional Development Fund. The funding stream comes to an end in July this year and was designed to encourage cultural tourists to visit the area and take advantage of the range of leisure facilities on offer.
27. At the beginning of May the final event of the programme took place at Rufford Abbey Country Park. Billed as an alternative village fete the 'Way Out Fest' attracted over 5,500 visitors to the park to enjoy a range of artist stalls and performances by local musicians. Very much a family event, visitors bought local honey and locally made crafts; painted their own pots and a communal canvas depicting the event; watched performances by the incredible insect circus, and enjoyed traditional funfair stalls. Fifteen members of Bassetlaw Youth Theatre also took over the Wildwood amphitheatre to present a newly commissioned piece 'Polly Flint'. The six performances over the weekend attracted a total audience of 1,200. The weather, for once, was glorious with the ice cream stall doing a roaring trade. To compliment the event Experience Nottinghamshire took over the Rufford marquee to mount an exhibition showcasing the counties other visitor attractions. The feedback from visitors was extremely good with over 97% of visitors rating the event as excellent or good.

The Arts Partnership

28. The County Council acts as the host for the countywide Arts Partnership involving all the district and borough councils together with the City Council. Focussing on Arts and Young People, the Partnership now has a full time coordinator, based with the County Council Arts Service. The partnership has decided that they will address how arts can contribute to the Crime and Disorder Agenda and deliver two complimentary strands of activity.
29. The first strand will be a county-wide series of creative pilot projects designed to build young people's aspirations and reduce their involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. The pilots will create sustainable local partnerships,

skills and strategies and produce strong evidence to make the case for future investment. The first two pilots in the City and Rushcliffe will be working with the Youth Offending Service, the Youth Services, the Community Safety team and Connexions.

30. To support the pilot projects the Partnership will also undertake research into current youth/arts practice and the development of a youth arts network bringing together local independent organisations and practitioners to improve practice and build a strong youth arts culture across the county.

Sports

Hockey

31. On 31st May and 1st June the Sports service put on training camps for hockey players. These were attended by over 50 children aged between 11 and 16 years old. The groups were coached by England and Great Britain international Jerome Goudie and Junior Wales coach Phil Edwards.
32. This was the first time camps had been run for outfield players and these followed on from the successful training for goalkeepers which was very well attended in April. Sessions focused on developing basic core skills and also on developing teamwork.
33. Running alongside these sessions was another goalkeeping camp which was attended by 15 promising goalkeepers from around the county aged 8 to 18 years old. Again, they received quality instruction for current international coaches.

Netball

34. A busy period for netball has seen a wide range of initiatives implemented to support new and existing players and to create more qualified officials to ensure the development of the sport.
35. A satellite tournament held at Titchfield Park in Kirkby in Ashfield saw four district squads play a round robin tournament with over 40 players involved. The tournament was won by the City of Nottingham, closely followed by Newark and Sherwood, Rushcliffe and Ashfield.
36. Twenty-five schoolteachers attended a High 5 workshop on 13th and 27th June. High 5 Netball is the primary school age version of the sport. High 5 Netball is a fun, skilful game, where players are able to rotate positions and adapt their skills to play in any position. The game was developed through extensive consultation with coaches, teachers and physical educationalists. It is hoped this course will provide teachers with the skills and confidence to deliver netball in the own skills and encourage more children into the game.
37. Between 9th and 16th June, 24 umpires gained either their beginners or C level umpiring award. The C award course ran at the Dukeries Leisure Centre and the beginners' course ran at Magnus School – both Newark venues. It is

hoped that this amount of newly qualified officials will support the development of new netball leagues and club structures in the Newark area.

38. In conjunction with our Sports Disability Unit, the Sports service has delivered three events aimed at developing netball and basketball for disabled people. Around 25 players attended an event at Manor School (Mansfield) designed to maintain the interest of participants who attended a similar event in April. It is hoped that these players will form the beginning of a new netball club for disabled people in Mansfield or will join mainstream clubs nearby such as Mansfield Express Basketball Club (Mansfield) or Hucknall Netball Club (Ashfield). A similar event held at Newark High School (Newark) should result in a new club for the district.
39. On 26th June, a High 5 tournament took place for the Joseph Whitaker Partnership primary schools (Newark and Sherwood). Ten teams took part and over 70 participants enjoyed a friendly competition in a competitive structure.

Canoeing

40. The highly popular canoeing sessions for beginners began in May and ran for 8 weeks. There were 10 sessions with each session supporting a maximum of 20 paddlers. Parents were invited to take part in two of the courses to support their child and develop their skills. The sessions were designed to lead participants into their BCU (British Canoe Union) 1, 2 and 3 star tests and all were encouraged to join the advanced canoeing sessions which will run later in the year.

Inclusive PE and Sport Conference – 7th June

41. Staff from the Sports service gave considerable support to this event which was run through Children and Young People's services and was designed to support teachers in primary, secondary and special school environments. The conference was held at Manor School (Mansfield) and attracted over 50 delegates.
42. Sports Development Officer Phil Peat delivered a workshop on how to support students with physical disabilities through GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) Physical Education. This workshop demonstrated how to assess pupils with a disability and offered ideas on how to support pupils working towards the qualification.
43. Performance Pathways Officer Richard Whitehead's workshop on performance pathways for disabled people made participants aware of opportunities in sport for gifted and talented pupils with disabilities and Nadine Boreland who is one of the Physical Activity Officers based in the Disability Unit explained the assessment in PE toolkit which is an initiative developed by the Youth Sport Trust for assessing and developing skills in sport for young disabled people.

44. Coaches from the highly successful Play Sport project demonstrated inclusive fundamentals and multi-skill activity which showed teachers how to deliver sports skills such as throwing, catching and balance for disabled people and Principal Officer for the Disability Unit – Rebecca Black offered strategies for including people with a disability in PE and school sport.

Inside Out Inclusive Festival – Holgate School

45. On 11th June, the Holgate School (Ashfield) hosted an Inside Out Festival with over 100 participants.
46. The Inside Out project which supports pupils with disabilities or special education needs in school PE has now raised awareness of disability in schools for over 11 thousand pupils and has delivered inclusive sports activities to over a thousand pupils. There has also been a huge amount of targeted work with school staff, parents and coaches.
47. Part of this work is the use of inclusive festivals. These involve an ambassador, usually a world class disabled athlete who works with school staff to deliver a two hour session of inclusive sports activities. Activities on offer consist of boccia, curling, table cricket, skittles, standing long jump, zone hockey, floor lacrosse and basketball.
48. Each primary school from the Holgate family of schools was invited to send up to 10 children who have a special educational need or disability or they could have low self esteem or poor coordination skills in PE.
49. This method of training offers ideas and support for staff and an opportunity for pupils to see they are not on their own, that there are lots of pupils in their situation and that they can share experiences to help them feel less isolated and more motivated to take part in further sporting activities.

Regeneration

Adult and Community Learning Service

50. On 24th May I attended the Adult Learners' Award ceremony, organised by The Adult and Community Learning Service, to present certificates to award winners. The event was attended by learners, tutors and support workers from across the county. It was a successful event with the acknowledgement of achievement and commitment being very much appreciated by all award holders. In addition to this event the Service, along with its Partners, is running a number of taster events during the week to help encourage adults to return to learn.

The Turbine Business Innovation Centre

51. On the 7th June I attended an event at The Turbine Business Innovation Centre based at Shireoaks Triangle Business Park near Worksop. The event marked two successful years of nurturing high growth, early stage

businesses. There are currently 26 businesses based at the Turbine and a further 10 utilise it as a virtual office.

Councillor Steve Carroll
Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration