



meeting **COUNTY COUNCIL**

date **13 SEPTEMBER 2007**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE & REGENERATION

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2007

1. The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council on 28 June 2007.

Culture

Libraries

Nottinghamshire Archives

2. On 5 July members of Nottingham St Mary's and Nottingham St Peter's Church visited the Archives to see the Guild roll of the Guild of St Mary's Nottingham which the Archives have recently purchased and saved from export.
3. On 11 July Nottinghamshire Archives held an Open Evening for Owners of Archives. Depositors and donors of records were provided with an introduction to the service, viewed a display of documents and were provided with a guided tour of the Archives including the strongrooms and the conservation department.
4. Nottinghamshire Archives have also taken part in the national Heritage Open Days weekend, organised by English Heritage and the Civic Trust, with a special opening on the afternoon of 9 September. In connection with this the Archives also hosted a visit from the Sheriff of Nottingham, Councillor Jeannie Packer on the previous day.

Balmoral Library's Children's Activities

5. Balmoral Library is one of the smallest libraries in the county, indeed the children's library is only eight by five feet, however this did not stop the staff running nine children's activities this summer.
6. Every activity was well attended with an average of 20 children plus parents enjoying a range of events from a Teddy Bears' Picnic through Pirates and Princesses to painting their own cardboard fruits and then sampling fresh ones.

This last activity, 5 a-day, was the culmination of a series of events and displays held in the library to support Nottinghamshire's Healthy Eating campaign. This promotion has also involved local children planting and growing tomatoes and the local school, St John's Primary, visiting the library for story telling activities, sampling fruit and vegetables and then displaying their associated work in Balmoral Library

7. This successful summer season has been hard work but ultimately very enjoyable and rewarding especially as there has been an increase in new members, visitor numbers and children's book issues.

East Group

8. The summer reading challenge, the Big Wild Read, was well-supported by children in all East Group libraries, with good numbers completing the challenge of reading six books during the summer to win a medal and a certificate. A total of thirty-six library-based activities were provided for children, several in partnership with organisations such as Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission. Librarians from the Group staffed the Holiday Mobile on visits to isolated communities in the East and the North of the county.
9. Ollerton Library hosted a party for Phase 2 of Bookstart on Wednesday 18th July. All children who reached or will reach the age of 2 in Ollerton between April and August 2007 were invited to the Library for a Rhyme Rattle Roll and craft activity session as well as enjoying party games and healthy snacks. The 12 children and parents who attended also received their Bookstart packs.
10. Partnership working continues at Edwinstowe where the first local Police Surgery was held in the Library on July 11th. The local police officers visited the library for the afternoon and are available for drop-in sessions with members of the public. The first session was so well received by both residents of Edwinstowe and the Police that a further 3 dates have already been organised.

Re-opening of Eastwood Library

11. Following a major £200,000 refurbishment, Eastwood Library reopened to the public on Monday 10th September, 2007 at 9.00am. The refurbishment has included:-
 - The removal of some internal walls to 'open up' the library
 - £20,000 of new books
 - A young adults area with a very contemporary look
 - A new café area with refreshment facilities
 - New ceilings and lighting
 - Complete internal redecoration
 - New carpeting
 - New counter, shelving and loose furniture
 - The installation of ceiling fans
 - A complete internal reorganisation of services including moving the children's library to the ground floor.

12. The library has been transformed into a light, airy and welcoming community space for customers to enjoy.
13. Last year just over 85,000 visits were made to the library with a 1,000 new member registrations, the re launched library is expected to reach a whole new audience and see an overall increase in visits, book issues and computer usage.

Workshop Library staff and mobile attend Langold Lake's Gala

14. On Sunday 12th August the Workshop mobile library, four library staff and the driver attended Langold Lake's gala. This was the fourth Gala organised by the Friends of Langold Lake but the first time that the library service has been involved.
15. The invite to attend came about because of the regular attendance at the Langold and Carlton COG. We were very pleased to be able to attend an event in the Langold area as we are keen to promote the library service to local residents.
16. The day turned out to be a great success, with the mobile proving to be a great draw for people. Over 50 children made masks with us and voted for their favourite book out of a choice of four. "I will never not ever eat a tomato" by Lauren Childs won the Langold vote!
17. We also took the opportunity to use a questionnaire to engage people in a discussion about Langold library, hand out opening time bookmarks and point out Rattle Rhyme and Roll times etc.
18. Apart from one huge cloudburst which saw half the field huddled under the library gazebo (we had a captive audience for questionnaires!) the weather was perfect. The staff worked very hard but thoroughly enjoyed the day and hopefully we will attend again next year.

Nottinghamshire's People's Network

19. The People's Network has seen a substantial amount of investment this year to improve service to customers. We have just completed a project that began in January to replace 180 public computers. During the autumn we will be replacing printers at most of our libraries, we are currently testing the printer available to us.
20. In October we will be offering Wi-Fi internet access at West Bridgford library (the service can be accessed by customers with Wi-Fi enabled laptops, it will also enable county council staff to access the intranet and internet when they are away from base). If the project proves successful we will roll the service out to a further 8 libraries and to Nottinghamshire Archives. This project is a direct response to public demand.

21. We recently ran a “Design a mouse mat competition” for children. The winning design (Aidan Walker – Ollerton), from 459 entries, was turned into a mouse mat that is now being used with our children’s pcs.
22. The computers also have a new sign on screen that is designed to be both attractive and easier to use.

Sports

Inclusive Youth Games – 4 July

23. On Wednesday 4 July, the East Midlands Airport Nottinghamshire Inclusive Youth Games was held at Nottingham Trent University All of Nottinghamshire’s districts took part in a range of competitions for participants with disabilities. There was a full programme of events in spite of the terrible weather suffered in the county during the month.
24. Over 150 athletes with disabilities took part across the four sports competitions. The new sports for this year were won by Mansfield who took first place in the Cricket and Ashfield who became Goalball champions. Broxtowe took the Girls Football and Boccia for school years 4 and 6 titles while Rushcliffe won the Boccia title for school years 7 and 11.
25. Former Paralympian and Beijing hopeful, table tennis star James Rawson attended the event to take part in an exhibition match playing against county coach Gordon Fearn to raise the profile of table tennis. It is hoped the sport may be adopted for next year’s Games.
26. The Games are used as a catalyst to introduce young people to sport and then to encourage them to find a club and continue their interest to their desired level. There is also a big emphasis on training and supporting volunteers. One of the big success stories of past Games has been Kayleigh Black (Ashfield) – a recent team gold medallist at the Boccia World Cup held in Vancouver - Canada. She began as a complete novice competing in a school team at the Youth Games and has been supported through club and county levels to finally achieve national honours. Kayleigh attended the event to talk to the participants about her experiences.

Youth Games – 7 July

27. The 9th Nottinghamshire Youth Games sponsored by East Midlands Airport took place at Ashfield School on Saturday 7 July. Around 1500 young people representing the eight districts of Nottinghamshire competed for their district in one of the 13 featured sports. The Games was officially opened by Olympic Gold medal winning cyclist Chris Hoy, Sky Sports football pundit Chris Kamara and the airport’s own Rascal the Rabbit who sounded the klaxon to declare the Games open.

28. The medals were well distributed with Broxtowe taking the Mixed Tag Rugby, Angling, Inclusive Football, Boccia Years 4 and 6 titles as well as the coveted Fair Play award. This is an amazing fifth win for Broxtowe in this category.
29. It was also a good day for the Rushcliffe, Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw squads winning 4 titles each. Rushcliffe took the Tennis, Girls Cricket, Boccia Year 7 and 11 and Badminton titles while Bassetlaw won the Basketball, Tag Rugby for years 7 and 8 as well as the girls and boys table tennis titles to add to their victory at the Sportshall Athletics competition in May. Newark won both netball competitions (years 7/8 and 5/6) as well as the Gymnastics and Girls Hockey.
30. This year's Youth Games saw all the districts win at least one competition. Ashfield took the Goalball title at the inclusive event, the City of Nottingham won Girls Football, Mansfield won the Inclusive Cricket competition and Gedling won the Boys Hockey rounding off a good natured day of competition enjoyed by all.

FANS Launch – 11 July

31. Although run informally by the districts for a fair period of time, the Nottinghamshire FANS scheme had its official launch on 11 July. FANS (Free Access to National Sportspeople) is a countywide initiative driven forward through the district sports development officers forum. It allows national athletes either from Nottinghamshire or the City, free access to training facilities in district owned sports centres.
32. Great Britain Acrobatic Gymnastics champion Amy Crow was at John Carroll Leisure Centre in the city to sign up for her FANS card and to try out some of the facilities to which her card entitles her. This includes the gym, swimming pool and exercise classes. Amy is the current European Champion and a former British junior and senior champion as well as being a team silver medallist at the world championships.
33. Now each local authority in Nottinghamshire as well as the City of Nottingham has a FANS scheme, national performers can apply to the area in which they are living.
34. We were able to support the districts by organising this launch event as well as press coverage from the Nottingham Evening Post and BBC East Midlands. We have collated the information on the scheme for each district and have published this in the grants section of the Intosport website. We also hope to put together a small promotional film for the scheme based on the BBC footage. It is hoped the scheme can be developed further to allow athletes to access other kinds of support such as travel discounts and opportunities to purchase equipment at a reduced rate.

Trent Bridge Cricket visit – 13 July

35. As part of our Youth Games winners celebrations, the Sports Disability Unit was able to arrange a trip for the winners of the inclusive cricket competition - Beech Hill Special School (Mansfield) to visit Trent Bridge, watch a game and meet the

players. Unfortunately, the weather ruled out any play but the team did have their Youth Games trophy officially presented to them by Notts cricketer Paul Franks and enjoyed a tour of the training, playing and conferencing facilities at Trent Bridge.

Library Launch - 16 July

36. Monday 16 July saw the launch of a new collection of books in the city which are dedicated solely to sports coaching. This was celebrated at Angel Row Library with a coaching session for local children of Huntingdon Primary School. The session was run by Paralympic athlete Richard Whitehead from the Sports Disability Unit who is a Performance Pathways coach and is part of the highly successful Play Sport project which aims to develop fundamental sports skills in young children.
37. The books were provided by the City Council's Sports Development team in partnership with our own sports development and Active Sports in Nottinghamshire coaching development teams. This is a brand new project for the area and marks a new partnership between sports and the city libraries service.
38. This is the third library in the county to be housing books for this project. There are already resources in Retford Library in the north of the county and at Beeston Library in the south. Customers are able to request these resources to be delivered to their local library. They do not have to visit the city to use them.

Rushcliffe School of Sport – 1 August

39. The Sports Disability Unit followed up on their School of Sport on the Road initiative of last year by again running an event at East Leake Leisure Centre for people with disabilities to come and try a range of different sports. Run in conjunction with the Physical Activity Officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council, the 60+ participants ranging from age 7 to mid forties were able to try their hand at swimming, boccia, badminton, tennis, multi skills, cricket and dance.

Talented Coaches launch – 5 September

40. Active Sports in Nottinghamshire and our sports development team in cooperation with the Nottinghamshire Coach Development Group have set up the Nottinghamshire Talented Coaches Programme. The role of the programme is to increase the county's pool of high performance coaching talent at all levels of development. It is hoped that the programme will produce distinguished high performance coaches and excellent quality developmental coaches across a range of sports.
41. 10 coaches have successfully applied to be included in the programme from a variety of sports. They represent the sports of football, netball, BMX (Bicycle Moto Cross), sailing, athletics, swimming, trampolining and rugby union. Each district is represented.

42. Active Sports in Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council have designed and will run the programme but this will be done in conjunction with officers from National Governing Bodies of sport. They will identify suitable mentors and sport specific development opportunities for the coaches.
43. The Chairman of the County Council hosted the launch event for the project with a buffet reception at County Hall. The 10 selected coaches were present at the event along with representatives from sport and coaching across the county. Mick Newell from Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club – a highly experienced coach gave a speech on his experiences in coaching and the coaches also got a chance to meet each other to share their experiences as well as to build relationships with their mentors and Nottinghamshire sports contacts.

Swimming success

44. It has been another very successful season for the Nova Centurion swimming programme with a number of names to watch for at the Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing.
45. **Rebecca Adlington** (Mansfield) continued her fine form by winning gold at the Paris International Open at the beginning of August, capping a remarkable season. After smashing her personal best to win gold in the 800m freestyle at the British Championships in Sheffield the week before - as well as a new personal best to win silver in the 400m - she flew straight out to France.

In Paris she delivered one of just two gold medals for Britain as her time of 8mins 29.21secs saw her beat a world-class field to claim another victory.
46. On 23 July **Sasha Matthews** (Gedling) took gold at the European Junior Championships. Sasha was part of the winning 4x200m freestyle relay team. She also picked up a bronze in the 400m freestyle with an incredible personal best time of 4.16.45 and came 5th in the 200m freestyle.
47. **Sam Hynd** (Ashfield) continued to build on excellent run of form at the beginning of August at the ASA Swim 21 National Championships in Sheffield. The 16 year old twice improved the SM8 (disability classification) category 200m individual medley record with his other European best coming in the S8 category 400m freestyle. He also lowered 8 British records.

Ashfield Star Track athletics course

48. On 20 August over 40 young people aged 8 to 15 had the chance to try out long jump, high jump, running, discus and javelin at 'Star:Track' - a summer athletics scheme which ran for 5 days at Ashfield School.
49. Organised by Active Sports in Nottinghamshire and supported by Ashfield District Council as well as local athletics club Sutton in Ashfield Harriers, Star:Track lets children of any ability develop their athletics skills in a structured and enjoyable programme delivered by experienced club coaches. It is then hoped they can be directed to local sports clubs to continue their interest in the sport.

Hockey Courses 4, 5, 8, 9 August

50. Working in partnership with Spartan International – a local hockey coaching agency, Active Sports in Nottinghamshire has delivered a range of hockey camps. The first of these was a specialised Junior Goalkeeping Camp. The event was based around essential skills for goalkeeping which included diving, smothering, hand and pad saves and the infamous 'Uglee Zone' (the area between the goalkeeper and the penalty spot). The camps were coached by an international goalkeeping coach and former National League goalkeeper, assisted by current junior international and national league goalkeepers. 17 people aged 8 – 18 took part.
51. The second event was a Junior Outfield Camp. Here, the aim was to develop core skills and build upon the knowledge and experience juniors have already received from their school or club. The camps looked at individual development and teamwork development including match play skills. 38 people aged 11-16 took part.
52. The final event was an Adult Goalkeeping Camp. Like the Junior camps, these were based around essential hockey goalkeeping skills and built on the skills the goalkeepers already had. 10 people attended this training.

MID-LAND Games – 5 June

53. The MID-Land Games is an athletics competition for adults with a learning disability. It is held every 2 years and this year was staged at Harvey Hadden Stadium in the City. 314 athletes representing 12 teams and three counties took part. The event encourages all abilities of athletes to participate and the emphasis is on participation rather than the elite performer. This year there were teams competing from eight areas including a significant amount of representation from Nottingham City and County, as well as Derby City, Amber Valley, Erewash, Derbyshire New Hall, Derbyshire Dales and Doncaster.
54. There were track and field activities to accommodate all athletes. Medals were awarded to the first three competitors in each event as well as individual awards and the prize for the best team banner. The overall team champions were the Nottingham Outlaws.
55. The Games was supported by our athletics development, coaching development and sports disability officers as well as a large team of volunteers recruited from the county's athletics clubs and disability sports associations..

GSCE Success for Disability Unit

56. The Sports Disability Unit have been working on a pilot project to support pupils with disabilities to attain GCSE PE accreditation. The first results have now been published and Nova Swimmer Sam Hynd (mentioned in the swimming section) has been awarded an A grade. It is hoped that this can now be rolled out in other schools in the county.

Community Safety & Regeneration

Worklessness Forum

57. I am pleased to report that the launch of the Nottinghamshire Worklessness Forum took place on Thursday 5 July at Newstead Miners Welfare Community Centre. The event hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council and Jobcentre Plus brought together a wide range of organisations to determine the best approaches to tackling worklessness in the county.

Sherwood Growth Zone

58. **Rushley Farm:** Despite recent setbacks, the Sherwood Growth Zone Partnership has continued to support efforts by the County Council and West Nottinghamshire College to establish a technology park adjacent to a relocated and improved new college at Rushley Farm alongside the Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR).
59. The future of the scheme is dependent on planning permission being granted by the two district councils impacted by the proposed development. In this respect, at a meeting of its Planning Committee held on June 25th, Mansfield District Council approved the joint submission with West Nottinghamshire College for a relocation of the college, along with an adjoining technology park on land owned by the County Council. Permission was also granted for the relevant access road alterations to be made to the site. Disappointingly, however, permission was not granted for the re-allocation of the current college site for housing, which would have generated income to support the cost of the college relocation, which stands at over £70m. A re-submission of this aspect of the proposals is due to be re-considered by the council in September.
60. Over 90% of the proposed development site lies within Ashfield District Council's boundaries and a further, more significant setback was received on July 9th, when its Planning Committee deferred any decision on the proposals for a period of three months. The proposals have been re-submitted to the council, accompanied by further evidence that alternative sites in the area have been properly considered. The revised proposals are now due for formal consideration by Ashfield District Council on October 29th.
61. **Other Sites:** Elsewhere within the Growth Zone, progress is being made towards the creation of new jobs. In particular, planning permission has now been granted for the development of a Prologis-owned site adjoining Oakham Business Park. Development of the site is expected to begin very soon and it is anticipated that this site will ultimately create over 2000 new jobs.

Family Learning Celebratory Event

62. On the 28th June Norbridge Primary School, Worksop, held a celebratory presentation to parents who participated in Share. Share is a highly successful family learning programme, funded and supported by the Adult and Community Learning Service. I would like to congratulate the school for their enthusiasm and commitment to the programme and parental engagement.

Science City – Raising the profile of science in Nottinghamshire schools

63. I am pleased to report to members that the Economic Regeneration Service, in collaboration with the Children and Young Peoples Department, has initiated a project to raise the profile of science in Nottinghamshire's secondary schools as part of its commitment to the Nottingham Science City partnership. A pilot project has been developed to reach out to 1000 pupils in years 7-11 over the next year to engage both pupils and science teachers to apply science in the classroom. The project is designed to engage a minimum of 14 schools across the county to participate – a minimum of two from each District.

Country Parks & Conservation

23rd Annual Robin Hood Festival

64. The 23rd Annual Robin Hood Festival took place at Sherwood Forest Country Park & Visitor Centre from Monday 30th July – Sunday 5th August and was supported this year by Experience Nottinghamshire with financial assistance from the Alliance SSP.
65. The event received excellent coverage in local, regional, national and overseas newspapers and magazines and was also covered by several local radio stations as well as Central Television and BBC East Midlands who broadcast their Friday evening edition of East Midlands Today live from the Major Oak.
66. Once again, the Festival proved to be extremely popular with visitors from all over the UK and many other parts of the world. County Council colleagues and partners from other organisations involved in the Living Landmarks project were in attendance throughout the week raising visitors' awareness of the BIG Lottery bid and collecting contact details in order to keep them updated with progress and when to vote.
67. The excellent weather and the hard work put into the event by the country parks staff ensured that visitors enjoyed a memorable event. Income over the Festival week broke all previous records, and visitor numbers were estimated to be in the region on 75,000, with the final day being the busiest Sunday ever.

Listed Buildings Owners' Days

68. Historic Buildings Conservation staff from organised and hosted two days of lectures, demonstrations and hands-on training in restoration techniques for the owners of listed buildings in Nottinghamshire. The event was held at Rufford Abbey Country Park on 29th and 30th June 2007 and, despite the flooding experienced across the County at the time, attracted 80 listed building owners. The Country Parks and Conservation Service maintains the Historic Buildings records for the County as part of the Historic Environment Record and also publishes the register of listed Buildings at Risk. This event was targeted particularly at the owners of buildings identified as being at risk.

Heritage Open Days

69. Historic Buildings Conservation staff have worked with the Civic Trust, organisers of the Heritage Open Days, to run and promote tours in Nottinghamshire as part of this national annual event. From Thursday 6th September to Sunday 9th September venues around the County, ranging from churches to factories, opened their doors to the public. Officers attended the opening of the Old Church Tower at Bramcote on the 8th and 9th September, running training sessions on the maintenance of historic buildings.

National Archaeology Week 14th – 22nd July

70. Nottinghamshire Community Archaeologists organised a series of events at venues around the county as part of National Archaeology Week. These included an opportunity for members of the public to bring along finds for identification in Mansfield Woodhouse, an open day at a reconstruction of an Iron Age Roundhouse in Calverton, a family archaeology day at Rufford Abbey Country Park and a half-day conference on Iron Age Nottinghamshire, culminating in a festival of Ancient Arts at Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve.

3 Cities and 3 Counties Growth Point

71. Country Parks & Conservation Service officers are developing proposals for improvements to “green infrastructure” (GI) and seeking support via the 3 Cities and 3 Counties growth agenda.
72. Natural England is co-ordinating proposals to develop a cross-boundary GI strategy that will cover the 3C area. Greenwood Community Forest has contributed its experience in carrying out GI mapping for the community forest area. We have also submitted an expression of interest for around £4million funding, to allow Nottinghamshire County Council to carry out further work on landscape character assessment and to provide for projects to create new GI resources and enhanced management of existing areas. We anticipate that these proposals will be included within a programme to be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government in October.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

73. The County Council has hosted a tour of community projects by Defra staff to demonstrate how support received through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) has been put to good use within Nottinghamshire. The county is the largest producer of sand and gravel in the East Midlands region and we currently receive £100,000 per annum to compensate local communities for the impacts of aggregates extraction, whether due to mineral working or to their haulage.
74. Since 2005/06 Nottinghamshire has been allocated a total of £320,000 from ALSF resources and this has been invested in a total of more than 30

community-based projects. We have match-funded the ALSF monies with resources from our BBC programme, and local communities have provided substantial cash and in-kind support, so that by September the ALSF programme's total value to date will have exceeded £800,000.

COUNCILLOR STEVE CARROLL
Cabinet Member for Culture & Regeneration

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