

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JUNE – JULY 2010

1. The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio. This report reflects the wide range of initiatives being undertaken across my portfolio, all of which help improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people.

GREAT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BIKE RIDE

2. The 29th Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride took place on Father's Day again this year and I was delighted to see over 4,000 people take part. There are rides for all abilities from the 75 mile ride to the 5km family lap challenge and the event attracted people from across the East Midlands including amateur and pro-cyclists, families, friends and individual riders. The event was a huge success and I am confident that we will raise even more than the £50,000 we raised for charities last year.
3. Coinciding with the GNBR, the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont opened two new cycle routes on the weekend it played host to thousands of cyclists. The 270 acre country park attracts many cyclists and joggers and the two new routes will provide a challenge and enjoyable day out for cyclists of every age and ability.
4. Starting from the car park by the White Water Course both routes explore the country park, following the waters edge, nature trails and broad level paths. The 'mountain bike route' is 3.6 miles and includes some moderate slopes, small obstacles and muddy terrain, whilst at 3.3 miles the 'family route' is relatively flat and wide making it suitable for beginners or novice cyclists.

Bestwood Winding Engine House

5. There was an event at Bestwood Country Park on 25th June to celebrate the completion of work on Bestwood Winding Engine House, a £2.4m restoration project which has been funded jointly by the County Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The event was hosted by the Chairman of the County Council Cllr Tom Pettengell, who thanked the

funding bodies, community volunteers and partner organisations for their support and help in bringing the project to fruition. The Bestwood Winding Engine House Volunteers have kept the engine working for the last 15 years and offered their time and valuable local knowledge to the project engineers.

6. The winding engine is set in a distinctive 1873 grade II red-brick building and is the only remaining vertical steam winding engine in England in its original location. Work is still on going and there are plans to open the Engine House in late summer.

International Ceramics Fair at Rufford Abbey

7. The 16th International Ceramics Fair took place at Rufford Abbey Country Park in June attracting more than 100 top European potters as well as ceramics students from eight universities. The event is one of the biggest ceramics fairs in Europe and featured pottery for the kitchen, home or garden, sculptures and trade stands, along with demonstrations, talks, music and refreshments. The event is always very popular and thousands of visitors were attracted from all over the country. A free park and ride service was provided over the weekend from Sherwood Energy Village.

LIBRARIES

The People's Network and WiFi in Nottinghamshire Libraries

8. Increasingly the information we need in our daily lives comes from the internet and regardless of age, access to, and the ability to use, computers and the internet is vital. Nottinghamshire Libraries provide local people with access to the vast array of information and services that the internet provides, through 385 public access computers. In 2009/10 the computers around the county were used for some 374,000 hours which equates to over 1000 hours every day.
9. Libraries provide supportive access to the internet and run sessions to help people get online. The Try IT sessions have been a huge success with over 8000 people being trained in the last 2 years alone. However, People's Network pcs are not just located in libraries: there are 72 computers in youth centres, 26 in children's centres and last autumn 22 were introduced into residential homes. In this way the service benefits all ages.
10. I am also pleased to report that a WiFi service has been introduced at 9 of our largest libraries as well as at Nottinghamshire archives. The service has been well received and has attracted new library users especially from the business community.

Southwell Library Poetry Festival

11. The Library service has once again made a major contribution to the cultural, tourist and business calendar of the county. Now gaining a national reputation, the Southwell Library Poetry Festival saw Sir Andrew Motion, the former Poet

Laureate, and best selling children's poet Michael Rosen headline the programme which took place from the 13th to 18th of July.

12. With something for everyone, this year people joined a poetry pub crawl, experienced poetry in the park and enjoyed a fabulous Saturday of workshops spanning the poetry of the Beatles to Haiku for Beginners. The festival included local poets alongside national stars, and brought the whole community together, including some of Southwell's shopkeepers who displayed their own favourite poems in their windows throughout the festival.
13. I would like to take this opportunity to praise the organisers for all their hard work and in particular for their innovative 'alternative' free events designed to appeal to younger audiences and those who might not expect to enjoy poetry.

The 2010 National Summer Reading Challenge in Libraries

14. The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest national reading initiative. Now in its twelfth year, it involves 725,000 children aged between 4 and 11. It is created and run by The Reading Agency in libraries throughout the summer holidays, with incentives, activities and events designed to create a real buzz around children's reading.
15. The challenge is to read six or more library books over the summer. This year's space themed challenge, Space Hop, began on July 17th with a series of launch activities at a number of libraries around the county, including performances from professional storytellers. The challenge runs until 17 September.

Summer Reading Challenge Young Volunteers

16. Last year the Library Service recruited a number of young volunteers to listen to children talk about the books they were reading on the Summer Reading Challenge. This year 30 volunteers aged between 14 – 19 years have been recruited. They will be working alongside staff in 15 of the county's busiest libraries encouraging children to join the challenge, explaining how it works, talking to children about what they have read, helping them find more books and encouraging them to complete the challenge.

National Bookstart Day

17. National Bookstart Day took place in June with many libraries around the county offering free sessions for babies and toddlers based on a seaside theme complete with sun, sea and sandcastles. Bookstart is a national programme that encourages parents to share books with their children at a very early age.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

Nottinghamshire Champions Learning Project

18. I am pleased to report that the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS) is achieving success as the lead organisation for the 'Nottinghamshire Champions Learning' project. In December 2009 ACLS, on behalf of a county-wide partnership which includes children's centres, libraries, FE/ community colleges and other local learning providers, was successful in its bid to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to deliver the 'Nottinghamshire Champions Learning' project .
19. The project is supporting members of staff within the partner organisations to become Learning Champion Mentors who are ideally placed to recruit and support volunteer Learning Champions from the communities in which they are working. To date the project has exceeded its targets by recruiting 18 Mentors, who in turn have registered 35 Community Learning Champions onto the National Community Learning Champion database.

Family Learning Provision

20. Since 1st August 2009, the Adult and Community Learning Service (ACLS) has supported adult learners to achieve a total of 192 accredited qualifications. The majority of these were for national tests in literacy and numeracy, with a number of qualifications from the Open College Network for which the ACLS is an approved centre.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVES

Young People Diary Competition

21. I was very pleased to present the prizes to the winning entrants in the Nottinghamshire Archives diary competition on 28 June. *MY LIFE! A day in the life of... Write it! Blog it! Make it Count!* was a competition designed to make archives relevant to the younger generation. Children were invited to record a day in their life during February and March 2010. The entries will be preserved at the Archives and will form a unique record of the lives of young people during the first decade of the 21st century. Prizes were awarded by Nottinghamshire Local History Association in three categories for children aged 7-10, 11-13 and 14 -16 years. The winning entries demonstrate creativity and energy and show real concern by the young people for the present and thoughts for the future.
22. The competition has been short-listed for a Nottinghamshire Heritage award for work with Children and Young People.

Diary of Godfrey Tallents

23. In June Councillor Girling launched the latest Libraries and Archives publication in Newark Town Hall: *Politics, Law and Society: The Diaries of Godfrey Tallents of Newark, 1829-1839*. A solicitor in Newark, Godfrey Tallents became Mayor in 1843 and was closely associated with W E Gladstone whilst he was MP for the

town from 1832-1846. The diaries present a vivid picture of local politics and society in Nottinghamshire.

ruffLives

24. Renaissance East Midlands have awarded Nottinghamshire Archives a grant for the ruffLives project. Working with local schools and community groups the Archives will use social networking websites to interpret and bring to life personalities from the archives of the Savile family of Rufford Abbey.

SPORTS SERVICE

International success

25. Mansfield's Charlotte Henshaw won 100m breaststroke gold in a new world record time at the BT Paralympic World Cup and is now looking towards the World Championships in Eindhoven in August. Fellow Nova swimmer Sam Hynd also won gold in the 400m freestyle and broke his own record which he set when he won gold at the Paralympics in 2008. Both swimmers are supported by our Shining Stars grant programme.
26. Rushcliffe's canoeist Fiona Pennie celebrated her return to the GB team with a silver medal at the World Cup meeting in Prague. Her Nottinghamshire team mate, Laura Blakeman, finished fourth. Both train at Holme Pierrepont.
27. Hucknall's Andy Turner claimed Great Britain's only win on the final day of the European Team Championships in Bergen in the 100m hurdles. He has also qualified for the European Championships in Spain.
28. Nottinghamshire's Helen Richardson and former Nottingham Trent University student Crista Cullen were part of the 18-strong squad for the Women's Hockey Champions Trophy held in Nottingham. This is a major international event and the six best teams in the world took part.

National Governing Bodies (NGB)

29. The 1st Annual Nottinghamshire Schools Basketball Association Year 7 Boys (under 12) County Finals took place at the end of June. This is the newest age group for which a county final has been organised, following the success of under 14 competitions for boys and girls and it is hoped that more age groups will be encouraged to take part.
30. The Nottinghamshire County Athletes Assessment Day (CAAD) ran on 14 July 2010. The aim of the CAAD programme is to give the participating National Governing Bodies a chance to assess whether the young disabled people attending have the potential to further progress within their chosen sport and benefit from the Paralympic or impairment pathway.
31. Sports development officers for athletics and hockey have provided support to their respective governing bodies to deliver roadshows linked to major events

such as the Women's Hockey Champions Trophy and the Rushcliffe International Festival of Sport.

Community Sport

32. The Sports Service helped to set up the Positive Goals football project in partnership with the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Nottinghamshire FA. The aim of the project is to use sport to improve the symptoms of people with mental health problems. At the end of the project those participating were asked about their experiences and the majority said being involved made them feel better within themselves. After this success, the league for season 2010-2011 will be launched during Mental Health Awareness Week in October and it is hope that the scheme can be rolled out across the East Midlands. A similar project is also underway with Rugby Union.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Visits to Social Enterprises and Community Resource Centres

33. I am pleased to report that the Deputy Cabinet member, Councillor Keith Girling, was able to visit a range of Community Resource Centres and Social Enterprise projects on the 6th July giving him the opportunity to meet the local people who make a real and valued difference in their communities. The County Council is currently delivering a programme focused on enabling the centres to become financially independent whilst sustaining their achievements in the community.

Making the Connection – Tesco Gateways

34. Making the Connection (MtC) is a flagship project for the Economic Regeneration service, delivering tailored recruitment and skills solutions to employers and communities across Nottinghamshire. I am pleased to report that the MtC project has been working with Tesco plc to support them in recruiting for their new superstore at Beeston which opens in November 2010 and 100 guaranteed interviews have been secured for local people.
35. MtC will be delivering five retail pre-employment gateways (a programme of training and support) in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, Working Links, Care Training and local colleges in Nottingham in July and August. Two selection days were held in July when over 100 attendees underwent a competitive selection process to participate in the training programme. The three week training programme will provide people with the required customer service skills and knowledge of the retail sector. Based on previous courses, MtC anticipates a high success rate in the number of people obtaining employment.

Nottingham Evening Post Business Awards

36. I am pleased to report that Nottinghamshire County Council sponsored the Nottingham Evening Post Company of the Year Award, the most prestigious of a series of awards, presented at a presentation dinner on 1 July 2010, which was

attended by the Leader, Councillor Kay Cutts, and the Deputy Cabinet Member, Councillor Keith Girling.

37. The awards showcase the world-class businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and the creativity and talent that exists in the business community. Despite difficult economic conditions the four finalists have all increased their turnover and created employment opportunities. I would like to congratulate 'Bunches' who won the award.

Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group

38. I am pleased to report that the first meeting of the Nottinghamshire Business Engagement Group took place at County Hall in July 2010. Representatives from the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, other business organisations and networks met to discuss the Nottinghamshire economy, recent developments in government funded business support schemes and the work the County Council is undertaking relating to its procurement strategy. Councillor Keith Girling, Nottinghamshire County Council's Business Engagement Champion chaired the meeting.

Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs – Business Breaks Project

39. The Business Breaks for Young People Showcase, held at the Nottingham Racecourse at the end of June highlighted the enterprise potential we have within our schools.
40. Business Breaks forms part of the Economic Regeneration Service's Next Generation programme which runs a range of activities to raise expectations and aspirations in our young people through the development of enterprise and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) skills. The programme aims to prepare our young people for the world of work and the potential option of running their own business.
41. Earlier this year 39 year 9 pupils, from Gedling School, Carlton le Willows School, Holgate School in Hucknall, and Magnus School in Newark, were challenged to create and market a product that can be used in the summer. Business ideas presented at the event included handmade chocolates, designer t-shirts and hanging flower baskets. Councillor Girling attended the event and was pleased to be able to present the students with certificates to celebrate their achievements.

Councillor John Cottee
Cabinet Member for Culture and Community