

19th July 2016**Agenda Item: 7**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR TEAM

Purpose of the Report

1. To update members of the Community Safety Committee on the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team.

Information and Advice

2. The priorities of the team have been identified as working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector:
 - to improve preventative and core services that help strengthen the local community;
 - to streamline the corporate grant aid process; and
 - to promote localism by working with communities to increase community involvement in the way services are shaped and delivered.
3. A key strategic priority for the Council is to ensure that Nottinghamshire has strong communities that are safe and thriving. The reality of the challenges faced means that the Council of the future will be different in the way it is shaped, organised and how services are delivered. The Council is committed to working in partnership with local communities, voluntary groups and volunteers to provide services.
4. Work being undertaken by the team seeks to support ways to develop and strengthen engagement with communities, moving towards a changed landscape of local services with new and innovative models being implemented. The contribution made to improving public services and well-being in Nottinghamshire by communities and the voluntary sector is recognised and supported through both an extensive grant aid programme and direct hands-on support from Community Officers.
5. Over recent years economic circumstances have drastically changed how organisations are funded with the result that only the most well organised third sector groups can thrive and provide a valuable contribution to the local community. Only by being robustly established and equipped to respond to new challenges can the wealth of voluntary sector organisations across the County maximise the positive impact that they have on local communities.

Working with Communities

6. The work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team underpins the Council's commitment to building on its reputation of working in partnership with the community and voluntary sector to help build local capacity. The range and scope of activities which members and officers are involved in seek to help to drive programmes with communities to deliver local solutions and move towards providing services in a different way.
7. The Council has several important roles to play in supporting communities to:
 - Build a strong sense of community, capacity and pride through collaborative partnerships.
 - Engage in the planning and delivery of services.
 - Generate and sustain their own capacity to respond to the challenges which Nottinghamshire faces.
8. Building confident and stronger communities is especially important within the current climate and the Team has been working with different communities across Nottinghamshire to help support local activities. These activities bring individuals together to celebrate the uniqueness of localities by helping to encourage and empower communities to take ownership and pride in the places they live and the people they live with. Examples of this include:

Porchester Festival

9. The weekend of 1-3 July 2016 saw the 2nd Porchester Community Festival in Gedling. This is the second Porchester Community Festival that the CVS team have helped support – the first years programme had 6 events across Mapperley and was put together by a small group of volunteers from St James Church Mapperley. This year the coordinating committee was expanded and a total of 15 events filled the programme – ranging from sports tasters for young people, tribute acts in pubs, a Community Marquee with Voluntary Organisations, Jazz on the Lawn, a Community Walk & a Celebration Event.
10. Between 600 and 700 people took part across the weekend. The CVS Team will support a review meeting in August/September and use social media to get feedback about what went well and what could be improved with a view to planning a 3rd Porchester Community Festival

Battle of the Somme Commemoration Event

11. The Community and Voluntary Sector Team co-ordinated a successful Battle of the Somme commemoration event. The event held at County Hall on 1st July 2016, started with a commemoration service at the front of County Hall which included the blowing of whistles, symbolic of the order to, 'go over the top'. This was followed by exhibition and film show in the assembly room. The exhibition, 'Nottinghamshire County Council 1916', told the story of The County Council throughout 1916 and the war years. The film show, 'The Somme', shows footage from the battlefield. In 1916, this provided a unique opportunity to 'go to the flicks and marvel at images from the front'. Both the exhibition and film show have been designed by the Nottinghamshire Heritage Forum. A contribution of £300 has been requested towards this commemoration event from the Community Safety Budget.

Cromwell Village Hall

12. Support has been given to the parish council with an application to WREN to the value of £43k – to rebuild the internal structure and refurbish the village hall. Also, exploring other funding opportunities to get the hall operational as soon as possible and appealing against an unsuccessful application being administered by the Derbyshire Environmental Trust on behalf of Tarmac.

Kingsway Hall

13. The Team are supporting Kingsway with an application to Comic Relief for a project being developed called Activ8 – this is a youth project aimed at addressing the poor health and physical activity levels of young people in Forest Town. The project will deliver some short term benefits through active participation in sports and longer term life outcomes through healthier living.

Funding Fair – Rainworth Village Hall.

14. Held at Rainworth Village Hall on 17th June 2016, 16 funding, business and infrastructure organisations took part in the funding fair. These included; C&VS Team, Newark and Sherwood CVS, National Lottery, D2N2, Gedling Borough Council, Sport England, Enterprise Zone, Central Notts College – apprenticeships, Ashfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, WREN, Community Accounting Plus, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Children in Need, Pioneer10 Notts and Nottingham Business Venture Enterprise Solutions.
15. As a result of the Team's involvement, 10 community groups have requested support in looking for funding to develop their services, these include; Tarkara Academy – group music provision for 9 – 15 years old. Funds to support a roll out programme; Girl Guiding Mansfield – Brownies, Guides and Rainbows in Mansfield, Rainworth and Blidworth; Woodborough Great to build a New Play Park and Friends of Moor Pondwood – to provide disabled access, interpretation and welcome boards.

Selston Sculpture Walk

16. The team is working with a small sub-committee of Selston Parish Council to develop a Heritage Lottery application for a 2.6 mile circular walk with 8 wooden sculptures that depict the history and heritage of the local area.

Harlow Wood Residents

17. Following a number of incidents of anti-social behavior including the dumping and burning of vehicles Cllr Carroll has been approached by residents interested in establishing some form of residents group. The team are advising on the most suitable structure to meet the needs of the local community.

Promoting Community Cohesion

Netherfield Forum – St Georges Centre Open day

18. On 16 July the St Georges Centre in Netherfield held an open day to showcase the range of activities and groups that use the centre. A key part of the event was to engage all sections of the community and to welcome new users. A contribution of £250 from the Community Safety Community Cohesion budget has been made to support this event.

TenFifty

19. TenFifty is a monthly night club event that supports adults with a learning disability to experience the night club scene, develop new social networks and have fun within a safe environment. The events take place at 'And Why Not', Leeming Street, Mansfield. The team are working with the organising committee to look for funding opportunities.

Newark & Sherwood Partnership Plus

20. Currently working on Delivery Plan including engagement with local communities of Castle and Bridge wards. The team supported Yorke Drive community event and undertook a survey of local residents. Further consultation work, aimed at promoting social cohesion, to be undertaken in the area over the coming months

Mansfield Community Partnership

21. Currently working with Mansfield District Council and partners to support the development of enhanced community engagement which establishes a sustainable bank of Community Connectors to help build strong and resilient communities.

Other Options Considered

22. The report sets out how the Council priorities are being addressed.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

23. To inform Members of Community Safety Committee of work undertaken to support the community and voluntary sector in Nottinghamshire

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

25. To note the work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector Team.

Tim Gregory

Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

This report is for noting only

Financial Comments (SES 29/06/16)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 'None'

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All