

**14<sup>TH</sup> June 2016****Agenda Item: 6**

## **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:

### **Blidworth Parish Library**

9. Supporting the Parish Council and working with colleagues from Inspire to look at the potential for the development of the existing Library to be community run with the site providing parish council office space, and a community kitchen and café.

### **Porchester Festival**

10. Supporting a group of volunteers to deliver a Community Festival over the weekend of 1-3 July 2016. Activities will include: 2 School Fayres, Bowls Club Open Day, Craft Sessions, Community Cinema, Music events at 3 pubs, Jazz on the Lawn at St James Church Mapperley, Sports club taster sessions, Story time at the Library, Food tasters, A Community Marquee with local services available locally, A Community walk around the Parish Boundary etc. The C&VS team are helping in a number of ways including the establishment of a Festival Facebook page and volunteering on the weekend.

### **Rainworth Pentaque**

11. Assistance is being provided to this new sports club with setting up a constitution, membership arrangements and funding applications. The C&VS team will also be helping with the organisation of fundraising and taster sessions for the local community.

### **Age Concern Carlton & District**

12. This group have been operating in Carlton & District for many years and have successfully remained self-sufficient with excellent fundraising work through their Charity Shop and Tea Room. The past 12 months has seen a significant increase in the costs associated with transporting lonely and isolated older people to their day centre and lunch club activities.

13. They calculate that over the past 3 years transport costs will have increased by £20,000 per year following reductions in subsidised transport. They have made up some of the increased costs by making modest increases in charges and improving the productivity of their commercial activities. The C&VS team have helped identify a number of external funding bodies that the group could seek support from and will be assisting with any applications that are made.

### **Armed Forces Champion**

14. The office of the Lord Lieutenant, Royal British Legion Nottinghamshire are linking a number events through June and July 2016 that involve Councillor Ian Campbell, NCC Armed Forces Champion. These include:
- 5<sup>th</sup> June - Royal British Legion Parade and Service at Southwell Minster.
  - 6<sup>th</sup> June TBC - the launch of the 'Supporting Our Armed Forces' webpage on the County Council's public website.
  - 20<sup>th</sup> June - Armed Forces Day Flag raising event at County Hall. Cllr Campbell will be the 'Master of Ceremonies'.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> July - Somme 100 Years Commemorations at County Hall, including a reading of "The Short but Terrible Rush".
  - 10<sup>th</sup> July - Memorial Window dedication service in Southwell Minster. Also planned are a number of award ceremonies to present the 'Legion d'Honneur' to Nottinghamshire recipients.
15. Future Developments: The Military Civil Integration – HQ 7 Infantry Brigade & HQ East are proposing that the Armed Forces Champions forum form part of the County Civil Military Partnership Board. The board would meet four to six times a year to discuss any Armed Forces community issues, play an important role in scrutinising any 'Community Covenant Fund' bids at a local level and make recommendation as to which bids should go forward to the regional and national panels. The structure has yet to be set but it is anticipated that the County Council's Armed Forces Champion would have a pivotal role.

### **Battle of the Somme Commemoration Event**

16. 2016 marks the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The commemoration is being led by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on behalf of the UK Government in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Royal British Legion to build a programme of events which reflect the significance of the First World War Somme campaign.
17. The Somme was one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War, resulting in over one million casualties. There will be a range of events taking place in the UK and France to mark the centenary period, for which more information will be available in due course. The C&VS Team are working on a commemoration event to be held at County Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.
18. The itinerary will include - Part one: The Chairman's reception in the Civic Suite; The County Choir performing two period songs and the hymn 'Amazing Grace'; readings by Cllr Alan Rhodes, Leader of the County Council and Cllr Ian Campbell, Armed Forces Champion; the symbolic blowing of whistles to signify the order to advance, 'OVER THE TOP'; and a Military salute. The Venerable (Air Vice Marshall) Robin Turner CB DL RAF Retd will conduct the service.

19. Part two includes an exhibition and film show, 'Fighting For Our Heritage', in the assembly rooms. Guests will be served a choice of lunch of Trench Stew or Vegetable Curry at 1:15pm.

### **Promoting Community Cohesion**

#### **Netherfield Forum – Loco [Locomotive] Centre Family Day**

20. The Loco Centre Family Day on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 provided an opportunity for the residents of Netherfield and Colwick to get together and celebrate all things Family. The event was held at the Loco Centre and gave the youth users of the Centre the opportunity to showcase their activities and clubs. On the day there was a Craft Fair, a Bake Sale, Magic Show, Inflatables, Disco, BBQ and numerous other activities. The event was promoted through schools, Sure Start, local businesses and community groups, with the aim to bring together the diversity of the local community and appreciate the positive contributions made in the community by children & young people.

The event had the following broad aims to:

- Develop a sense of pride and belonging to the local area.
  - Develop strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.
  - Develop local understanding of the support available in the local community so that people from different backgrounds can have similar life opportunities.
  - Give people the opportunity to mix and meet with the community.
21. Over 250 local people attended the event and the £250 contribution from the Community Safety Cohesion fund was a welcome addition to the 150+ hours of volunteer input. A member of the C&VS Team assisted with planning and promoting the event and was there on the day to support the volunteers.

#### **Newark & Sherwood Partnership Plus**

22. The C&VS Team have provided support to help deliver the Partnership Plus Delivery Plan, this includes specifically helping to improve community cohesion through engagement with UK / Eastern European communities. This is in the initial stages, the team will be supporting a community event taking place in the Bridge ward where consultation and engagement with community members will be undertaken in order to establish local concerns and issues. The team will also be conducting a mapping exercise to establish the demographic profile of the area. The overall aim is to promote social cohesion and reduce tension between different communities.

### **Other Options Considered**

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

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

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

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

25. 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**

26. 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:**

**Cathy Harvey**  
**Community and Voluntary Sector Team Manager**  
**T: 0115 977 3415**  
**E: [cathy.harvey@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.harvey@nottsc.gov.uk)**

## **Constitutional Comments**

This report is for noting only

## **Financial Comments (SES 6/06/16)**

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