

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 22 FEBRUARY TO 28 MARCH 2016****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Committee on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people.

Information and Advice**LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, ARTS, INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY LEARNING****Annesley Woodhouse Community Partnership Library**

2. The re-opening of Annesley Woodhouse Library in its new location within The Acacia Centre on Saturday 19th March 2016 marked the third Nottinghamshire Library to become a Community Partnership Library and the first within a community centre. The library moved from its old premises within a church hall and reopened in its new, shared and refurbished premises after just one week of a closure period.
3. The Library Service has invested in new shelving, carpeting and some library furniture, all of which have increased the accessibility of library materials and enhanced the overall customer experience. In addition customers using the new library are able to sit in warm comfortable surroundings with full access to The Acacia Centre's facilities which include a café, public toilets, Wi-Fi and a range of learning and leisure activities.
4. On the opening day over 75 people visited and by the end of its first full week of opening the numbers of new members equalled 76% of the library's 2014-15 total. There have been very many positive comments including:
 - *"It's lovely to be able to borrow our books at the same time as visiting the centre"* (parent of 2)
 - *"It's so nice to have the library here, it's warm and friendly and I can meet my friends, choose my books and have a cup of tea too!"* (older lady visiting the library for the first time).
5. This move will save on building maintenance costs and reduce staffing expenditure as the library will open on a day to day basis with volunteers supported at arm's length by a library manager and a dedicated phone line.

COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATES

6. Easter is traditionally the start of the main season at Rufford Abbey and Sherwood Forest Country Parks, but visitor numbers at this time of year are extremely weather dependent, especially when Easter falls in March rather than April. Weather at Rufford Abbey and Sherwood Forest Country Park was sunny on Good Friday, but turned colder and wetter for the remainder of the Easter weekend.
7. At Rufford Abbey the main event was the family Easter Egg Trail. Nearly 1,000 trails sold on Good Friday, but numbers dropped to a maximum of 350 per day on the wetter days. Car park figures followed a similar pattern – a busy pre-Easter week, peaking on the sunny Friday with around 1,500 cars, followed by slower days. Trading at cafes and shops on Good Friday was exceptionally busy; Easter Saturday was very poor but income boosted by two pre-booked weddings. Easter Sunday was average and Easter Monday was poor. In general, results illustrate the seasonal and often unpredictable demand at outdoor tourist attractions.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families & Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director
Youth, Families & Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottscc.gov.uk

C0807