

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 3 JANUARY TO 12 FEBRUARY 2017

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

Library Modernisation Programme

2. Work to transform Keyworth Library into a modern and inviting space for the community has commenced. The library closed on 28th January and will re-open on 29th May 2017.
3. In addition to access to neighbouring libraries, a mobile library service will visit Keyworth every Saturday 9am – 1pm during the refurbishment period.
4. This refurbishment is part of the libraries modernisation programme undertaken over the last ten years. In addition to Keyworth, significant projects at Beeston and Mansfield Woodhouse Libraries will be completed in 2017.

Nottingham Light Night

5. Nottingham Light Night celebrated its tenth year on 10th February. Inspire contributed three events:

The Journey at St Mary's Church – County Youth Arts

6. The Journey is a projection mapped sculpture created by over 60 disabled young people from the Nottinghamshire South Youth Link Clubs: Eastwood, Beeston, West Bridgford and Gedling and The Visualise arts project based at The Old Library, Mansfield. The work was viewed by over 3,000 people as it was projected onto St Mary's Church.

Stories of Riot and Rebellion at Nottinghamshire Archives

7. 20 people joined the Archives team in a presentation of genuine sources and stories of the framebreakers and the rioters who attacked and burned Nottingham Castle in 1831.

STEAM Powered Big Draw exhibition at West Bridgford Library

8. This is an Inspire Arts Service exhibition that brings together arts and technology. It is a very sparkly spectacle created by people of all ages turning science into art and creating beautiful original drawings with conductive materials. The Big Draw exhibition was visited by 140 people on 10th February and is currently touring main libraries and will be at West Bridgford until 19th February before touring to Mansfield Central Library from 22nd February.

COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATES

Country Parks & Green Estate

9. Commercial operations at Rufford Abbey Country Park moved over successfully to Parkwood Leisure on 1st February and work has started on the planned refurbishment and upgrades to the facilities.
10. The RSPB has been successful in obtaining planning permission for the new visitor centre at Sherwood Country Park & National Nature Reserve and initial ground works will begin imminently.
11. Negotiations with Gedling Borough Council on the proposed collaboration agreement for the future management of Bestwood Country Park are progressing; this is covered in a separate report to Committee.
12. The dates for the 2017 Robin Hood Festival have now been confirmed. The event will take place from Monday 31st July to Sunday 6th August.
13. More prosaically, but equally importantly, work on day to day activities has continued. A flavour of the myriad of activities that are taking place weekly on the sites in the estate is detailed below:

Bestwood:

14. The monthly health walk continues to be very popular with an average of at least 20 people attending each time. The Thursday volunteer sessions have been increased to weekly because they have been so popular and we are currently undertaking the laying of the hedgerow at Parkside pasture. The group has also adopted the wildlife garden and plans are underway to revamp and rejuvenate this area. They have already made a start by building a fabulous new bug hotel, complete with pictures of potential new 'guests'! The Friends of Bestwood are supplying us with nice new bird feeders for the feeding station with profits from the café and they also intend to buy a couple of tracking cameras so that wildlife activity can start to be monitored.
15. The Winding Engine House and Dynamo House continue to be popular with both local residents and those visiting from further afield. The café has built up quite a customer base and has a steady stream of regular customers even in inclement weather. They are hoping to fund more outside tables and chairs now they have the new storage container to keep them in.

Cotgrave:

16. There has been a very successful hedge laying event in partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and more sessions are planned soon. The Volunteer Wardens continue to be a wonderful asset and the public using the park are getting more used to seeing them around and approaching them for help and advice. We have had quotes back for the proposed new 'wardens station' which is to be funded from developer contributions from the housing development on the old colliery yard. It will make a big difference to them to have a 'base' they can operate from as well as potentially earn a bit of income from tea and coffee sales etc.

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.

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