

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	14 April 2022

**Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

**2. Environmental Health Update**

- 2.1** The function of checking compliance with Health and Safety legislation is split between the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Local authorities with the HSE taking responsibility for higher risk work activities and the Local Authority taking responsibility for lower risk work activities. During the pandemic, the Health and Safety Executive and Local Authorities developed a spot check programme and then worked in tandem to encourage compliance with COVID-19 Regulations and Guidance. We participated fully in the programme with 487 workplaces within Wyre being contacted at stage 1, 223 businesses being escalated to stage 2 and a further 15 businesses being escalated to stage 3. All stage 3, businesses were visited and action taken to improve COVID-19 security measures or confirm that appropriate measures were in place in accordance with the guidance. The main reasons that workplaces failed the spot check at any stage were:

- Unable to demonstrate adequate social distancing in the workplace,
- Inadequate cleaning regimes in place,
- Lack of awareness of COVID-19 guidance.

**3. Active Lives and Community Engagement Update**

- 3.1 YMCA/Leisure Centres** - We have continued to work closely with Fylde Coast YMCA to develop their Wyre offer for residents and to aid the sector's recovery from the impact of the pandemic. We have used some of our leisure recovery funding to provide support around re-branding,

marketing and the targeted promotion of the YMCA's offer, as well as commissioning a promotional video. The Heckford marketing agency have assisted in this work. This has resulted in a new and fresher look to branding with a positive impact on resident awareness of the YMCA's offer as well as an increase in the take up of memberships, both direct debit and annual memberships. At the end of February, total memberships were 6,661 which was better than targeted.

- 3.2 Wyre Moving More** – We have been working closely with leisure consultants KKP on the development of our new physical activity and sport strategy – Wyre Moving More. We have formed a Wyre Moving More Board with a range of key local partners who are now helping us to develop the strategy and its key priorities to help Wyre residents to be more active. Initial priorities agreed for Wyre are; Health and Wellbeing, Active Environments and Children and Young People. These priorities all follow Sport England's strategic 10 year vision – Uniting the Movement. A good response has been received to the public consultation which sought to get the views of local residents on taking the Strategy forward. The results of this survey will be fed into the development of the strategy over the coming months.
- 3.3 Digital Inclusion Workshops** - We recently joined forces with Torentum Primary Care Network to deliver a training course to enable residents to get online. The course ran throughout February and into March at Thornton's Medical Practice. The course was delivered by our Digital Web Officers and covered a range of topics including emails, search engines, web browsers, social media, online banking and shopping, video calling and information on how to stay safe online. The training was really successful and provided attendees with the confidence to use their devices easily and access the internet safely. Malcolm Holroyd, a resident in Thornton who attended all five sessions said 'I found the course really informative and useful. Plenty of time was spent with each attendee to ensure they got the help they needed. There was a lovely atmosphere and it was a great way to meet other people'.
- 3.4 Slimming World Adult Weight Management Programme** – As a result of extra funding received from Public Health England in February, we extended our weight management programme with Slimming World so that residents can now sign up for free without having to go through their GP. The free 12 week programme is available to residents who are motivated to lose weight and have a BMI of between 30-45. So far over 300 people have signed up to the programme and have lost on average 13.8lbs during the 12 weeks. Residents can sign up online at [www.wyre.gov.uk/weightmanagement](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/weightmanagement) or call into a local meeting to find out more.
- 3.5 Man v Fat** – Whilst not all attendees on the Slimming World Weight Management Programme are women, most are and so we looked to establish a programme more attractive to men. Recently we have invested in a new and innovative programme, Man v Fat. This national programme is being provided with Fleetwood Town FC Community Trust and was launched in February. The 14 week programme is proving

popular and now regularly attracts over 25 men every Friday night at Poolfoot Farm.

#### 4. Tourism / Visitor Economy

- 4.1 Creatival** - On Saturday 26 March we were pleased to host Creatival, a free creative arts festival, as part of our Welcome Back campaign. It took place at Fleetwood Market and Cleveleys Plaza. In the morning there were free art workshops at Fleetwood Market plus a variety of interactive performances. The afternoon saw the performances and entertainment continue in Cleveleys. The event was completely free and was a great way to offer residents and visitors the opportunity to experience brilliant family entertainment and welcome them back to Fleetwood Market and Cleveleys town centre.
- 4.2 The Queens Jubilee** - We are putting together plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in Wyre. This will include free outdoor theatre performances of Alice in Wonderland, a beacon lighting ceremony, a giant Jubilee picnic and a tea party for care home residents and local isolated people. We have also simplified our street party event application process to encourage as many people as possible to take part. All the details are on our website at [www.wyre.gov.uk/jubilee](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/jubilee).
- 4.3 New Discover Wyre website** - We are working on a new tourism website which will go live next month. There will be a renewed focus on our town centres as well as plenty for ideas for things to do when visiting Wyre. We hope that residents will also find the site useful, helping them to explore the high streets, attractions and events on their doorstep.
- 4.4 Marsh Mill** – The windmill will be open for tours on Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday (delivered by volunteers and the Tourism Development Officer) and the sails will turn. On Easter Saturday there will be live music in the square from the Thornton Cleveleys Brass Band. There will be exhibitions in the Mill from Easter onwards for Thornton Cleveleys 60th anniversary memorabilia and fine watercolour art from Maria Bertoloni to view.

#### 5. Holiday Activity Programme

- 5.1** Following the success of the summer and Christmas holiday clubs last year we have once again run a programme of free activities during the Easter holidays for children on benefits-related free school meals. The local holiday clubs are part of the Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), set up to provide children and young people with fun activities to enjoy with friends, the chance to develop new skills and enjoy a healthy lunch in the holidays. Twelve clubs were provided across Wyre by eight different providers and they successfully ran a range of clubs starting on 4 April through to today, 14 April. The sessions included a variety of fun activities alongside a nutritious meal each day. There was plenty to enjoy including Easter egg hunts, arts and crafts, yoga and mindfulness, forest school activities, slime making, swimming, dodgeball, rounders, archery and kayaking. It has been a great success once again.

## **6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre**

- 6.1** Many theatre and dance groups as well as other local organisations including 'Life Long Learners', 'University of the Third Age', 'Harmony and Health' and 'Light and Life' have all returned to Thornton Little Theatre over the last few months. Su Pollard was the first professional performer to return to the venue in February. Tickets for all shows at both Theatres have sold well over the last few months - with many sold out shows.
- 6.2** We are seeing an increase in demand for weddings with sixteen weddings currently booked into Marine Hall and The Mount Pavilion between June and September this year.

## **7. Comments and questions**

- 7.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.