

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	7 July 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. Food Safety Update

- 2.1 During the pandemic many food businesses continued to operate or were temporarily re-purposed as take away food businesses and many new food businesses opened. The food safety team continued to work throughout the pandemic supporting these food businesses and are in a very good position to complete the Food Standard Agency recovery plan by April 2023.
- 2.2 In the last financial year, Wyre reported that all their highest risk businesses (category A) received an intervention. Although there was no requirement to complete all the interventions (category B) until the end of June 2022, 92% had been achieved by 31 March 2022. The Authority also undertook 157 Category C interventions, 160 Category D interventions and 3 Category E interventions. Of the 118 new businesses set up in the last 12 months only 10 required an intervention as of 31 March 2022.

3. Active Lives and Community Engagement Update

- 3.1 **YMCA/Leisure Centres** - Leisure Centre attendances for the last complete quarter (January to end of March 2022) were good with 188,953 visits across all centres. Over 81,000 visits were made to our pools over this period. Whilst Memberships continue to build towards the levels they were at pre-pandemic promoted by re-invigorated and targeted marketing offers there is a concern about rising energy prices and the cost of living which will no doubt have an impact on memberships and the operational performance of the centres. Officers continue to work closely with the YMCA to monitor performance.

- 3.2 Splash Pad** - Marine Splash at Fleetwood YMCA has re-opened for the summer. The facility will be open at weekends and during the school holidays from 10.30 until 5.30pm (weather permitting!). Opening hours are split into sessions and booking in advance is recommended.
- 3.3 Fleetwood Trails** – Between 13 and 24 June, we worked with 'This Great Adventure' to deliver a new two-week programme of skills and trail development at Blackpool Sixth Form College. This involved a group of 18 students from various course disciplines. The students enjoyed a tour and visits to Fleetwood where they met and interviewed the 'living library' i.e. groups of people that work and/or live in Fleetwood about heritage and life in the town. This engagement project was designed to give the students project management control with guidance and development support from experts, focusing on the assets and leadership of the young people involved. Other than the course content regarding building trails and research, the design was not prescribed, so the young people were in full control of what the trail theme and material would be. A presentation event is due to be arranged for early Autumn to showcase the work and launch all the other trails created.
- 3.4 Dementia Awareness Week** - We took part in many events and activities as part of dementia awareness week, between 16 and 22 May, to highlight the support available in Wyre and the health and wellbeing offer for people living with, or caring for, someone with dementia. Events included:
- Six reminiscence sessions at a number of venues including: Trinity Hospice Garden Party, Cleveleys Library, Affinity and a Time for Tea event at Emmanuel Church;
 - A creative wellbeing session at The Front Room (Over Wyre Medical Centre);
 - Fun Arts at Knott End Library (these sessions will now be held weekly every Monday at 1pm);
 - The creation of a decades exhibition for the Platinum Jubilee marquee.
- 3.5 Beach Patrol Service** - The Beach Patrol Service is once more operating on key sections of our bathing beaches at Cleveleys and Fleetwood. Over the summer the service will be provided at weekends up to Sunday 24 July and daily over the school summer holidays, between Monday 25 July to Sunday 4 September. The specific times of the service will vary according to tide times but will be centred around 10:30 – 17:00 at both Fleetwood and Cleveleys.

4. Tourism / Visitor Economy

- 4.1 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee events** - Over the bank holiday weekend, the council ran a series of events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These included free shows of Alice in Wonderland for families, an official beacon lighting, a giant picnic and a tea party for local care home residents, isolated people in our borough and community champions who helped out during the pandemic. Each event was a great success.

4.2 The theatre shows and picnic brought hundreds of people into the towns on each day and were thoroughly enjoyed by the families who came. The beacon lighting was attended by around 300 people despite the rain and was a historic occasion that we were proud to mark. The tea party was enjoyed by over 120 people. There was entertainment, singing, reminiscing and dancing and we've had some great feedback from the people who came. It meant a lot to be able to give those who were the most isolated throughout the pandemic the chance to be together and celebrate. The council also acknowledged over 50 street party applications across the borough and promoted other events organised by local community groups.

5. Holiday Activity Programme

5.1 Bookings are now open for the popular Summer Holiday Activity and Food Clubs - a programme of free activities 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. A range of clubs is being hosted throughout the summer holidays by providers across the borough and includes a variety of fun activities alongside a nutritious meal each day. There's plenty to enjoy including yoga, slime making, dodgeball, football, archery, arts and crafts, cooking and more. We ran holiday clubs last summer and at Christmas and Easter and so far 1,210 children have taken part. Paid for places are available on some sessions for those that are not eligible for free places.

6. Countryside

6.1 In May we celebrated the coast, parks and countryside of Wyre in springtime with the Garstang Walking Festival. Walks took place in a wide variety of locations. The Friends of Garstang Walking Festival, Wyre volunteer walk leaders, rangers and partners lead family activities, easy accessible walks, moderate walks all the way up to challenging long distance and upland walks. The feedback from the customers was excellent with over 400 attendances on the walks. Customers travelled in from the Garstang, Wyre and Lancashire areas as well as further afield from Greater Manchester, Bradford, Croydon and Edinburgh. The Friends of Garstang Walking Festival volunteers supported by the coast and countryside team have already started planning for the 2023 festival.

7. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

7.1 Over 3,000 people attended the Picnic Celebrations held in Marine Gardens for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event was organised by Fleetwood Rotary and Fleetwood Festive Lights Committee with support from Wyre Theatres and was funded by Fleetwood Town Council. The special Jubilee Tea Dance was also well attended with a great atmosphere and special prizes for the best red, white and blue, Jubilee themed outfit.

7.2 Three wedding ceremonies were held at The Mount Pavilion in April/May with another four taking place in June/July. Enquiries for future wedding bookings are now coming in on a daily basis. The Civic Society held two Open Days in The Mount Pavilion in May and June, which have also generated a lot of interest.

7.3 Many more of our annual events have returned to both Theatres this summer. Most of these have not taken place since 2019. This includes Fleetwood Carnival which returned to Marine Hall in June 2022 and The Nautical College Graduation Ceremonies in July 2022. At the same time, we have been pleased to welcome a number of new hirers and events to Thornton Little Theatre, including several local dance and drama schools for young performers.

7.4 The main ballroom at Marine Hall has been closed for essential maintenance to the floor between 20 June and 5 July. This is the first time that the floor has been completely refurbished.

8. Comments and questions

8.1 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.