

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	20 April 2023

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

- 2.1** The EU (Revocation and Reform) Bill is set to be a defining moment for food safety legislation, Health and Safety legislation and Environment legislation and may significantly impact on the work undertaken by the team. Both the Food Standard Agency and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health have raised some concerns, which will be given careful consideration during the passage of the Bill through parliament and I will update members regarding any changes at future meetings.
- 2.2** Food Safety legislation helps ensure that the standard of food hygiene within food businesses is sufficiently high to protect public health and the team encourage businesses to adopt hygienic practices and as a last resort taking enforcement action where appropriate. Health and Safety legislation helps ensure that employers properly risk assess work hazards and take suitable steps to control them and the enforcement of this legislation is split between the HSE and Environmental Health teams and is currently enforced reactively. Environmental legislation ensures the environment is protected from pollution, and the enforcement of this legislation is split in the main between the Environment Agency and Environmental Health teams.

3. Tourism and Events

- 3.1** Our tourist information point is taking shape at Garstang Library with a range of leaflets now available for visitors. We hope to have the digital screen up and running shortly. The space is already being used by visitors and we are looking forward to developing further printed materials to showcase what Wyre has to offer.

- 3.2** We have launched our new online event booking system and are supporting events across the council in offering an easy solution for ticket sales. So far the visitor economy, the coast and countryside and the economic development teams have used the system which is proving popular with customers.
- 3.3** We have launched our new event, Wyre's Coronation Celebrations which will be held on Monday 8 May. This will take place across Garstang and will include a two mile mass participation walk, free outdoor family theatre, live music and entertainment and also Wyre's Big Help Out – a showcase of volunteering opportunities in the local area. We want to encourage as many people as possible to come together to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.
- 3.4** Plans are currently being put in place for a community event in Marine Gardens on Saturday 6 May to celebrate The Coronation of King Charles III. The event will include a screen which will show the Coronation as it happens. The event is being organised and funded by Fleetwood Town Council with support from the Theatres team.
- 3.5** We have written a proposal for Disney, for the promotion of the Star Wars filming that took place in Wyre. We are awaiting their approval on our plan and we look forward to encouraging more visitors to the place where this was filmed along our coastline in Cleveleys.
- 3.6** We have attended two tourism trade shows recently in Blackpool and Birmingham, and produced a We are Wyre leaflet to highlight what is on offer for visitors and group travel organisers. We attended the shows with Fylde and Blackpool Councils and look forward to working together to promote the Fylde Coast.

4. Countryside

- 4.1** Wyre Council, Wyre Rivers Trust, a Local Farmer and the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedge-laying Association hosted a Hedge-laying Competition and skills training workshop on a local farm. The competition helped to promote the value of hedgerow management (great for carbon sequestration as they are mature trees) and how to sustain them for the future using the traditional craft of hedge-laying.
- 4.2** Bookings for the 2023 Garstang Walking Festival went live in February, making use of the new on-line ticket booking system www.wyre.gov.uk/walkingfestival. The Garstang Walking Festival which takes place in early May is aimed at promoting Garstang and Wyre to visitors who enjoy exploring the great outdoors on foot. It is coordinated by the Friends of Garstang Walking Festival and supported by the Council.
- 4.3** A new addition for 2023 are the "Talk to us on Tuesdays" weekly drop-in sessions at Garstang Library. Customers can meet walk leaders and Wyre volunteers and staff to assist with enquires about the Walking Festival and other Great Outdoor walks and activities. Support will also

be offered for customers new to on-line bookings in a welcoming environment.

5. Health and Community Engagement

- 5.1 Integrated Care Strategy** - The Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) has developed a new integrated care strategy to address the broad health and social care needs of the population within the area, including issues such as employment, environment and housing, all of which have an impact on our health and wellbeing. Five priorities for Lancashire and South Cumbria are proposed. The proposed priorities are: Starting Well, Living Well, Working Well, Ageing Well and Dying Well. The strategy has been out for community consultation. The authority submitted a response to the consultation that included recommending an increased emphasis on the prevention of ill health via District Council interventions including across housing to support older residents to maintain independence and the use of leisure centres and other indoor/outdoor environments to address inactivity and getting residents moving more. Consultation closed on 24 March 2023.
- 5.2 Wyre and Fylde Lancashire Place Based Partnership Workshop** - A new place-based partnership has been created to support the integration of health and social care over the Lancashire County Council and the 12 district council areas. The intention is to strengthen collaborative working and integration for the benefit of the public and communities in order to tackle avoidable health issues and inequalities plus enabling independence in the community. In order to take this work forward, we hosted an engagement event here at the Civic Centre for Wyre and Fylde on 1 February. Representatives from across health, social care and community were well represented and Louise Taylor (the new Lancashire Director of Health and Care Integration) shared an update on progress made on developing the new arrangements and thinking to date. In particular the event explored what we should prioritise to do together at the various geographic levels. A number of our services were used as case studies highlighting positive preventative work underway supporting the prevention of ill health.
- 5.3 NHS Cost of Living Grants** - We were asked in late 2022 by NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria to co-ordinate an application process and distribute up to £95,000 worth of NHS cost of living funding to local community groups. We rose to the challenge and opened a fund to applicants in early January. Demand was high for the funding. A panel met weekly to agree successful bids and the funding has been successfully administered. Thirteen local groups have been awarded funding including Fleetwood Community Hospital, Harmony and Health, Inspired Minds and Roots to Branches. The NHS were very pleased in the effectiveness of the award process and with them we are now looking forward to hearing about the positive impact that this funding has had within our communities.

- 5.4 Bike Maintenance Workshops and Bike Recycling** - Following a successful application to Cycling UK we have been awarded £2,500 to enable us to develop bike maintenance repair workshops. Volunteers are booked onto advanced bike maintenance training workshops in April and from May these volunteers will be running bike repair drop in sessions at Memorial Park, Fleetwood. A stock of bikes to work on have been secured with Cycling UK and Bikes for Heroes and these will be used to encourage those new, or returning to cycling, to get back on a bike to improve their health and wellbeing.
- 5.5 Arts and Health** - Just Reminiscing sessions were held at Cleveleys Library, at the Healthier Fleetwood Affinity unit and at Marine Hall as part of the combatting loneliness and heritage events. These sessions/events were well attended and provided some good engagement conversations spreading the word of our health and wellbeing offer. Art Buffet sessions at Market House Studios have been fully attended and everyone is really enjoying the wide variety of arts on offer at the site. Creative Wellbeing sessions have recently started at Cleveleys Community Centre, the first time such sessions have been held there and they are working out really well with participants forming new friendships and engaging in wonderful creativity for wellbeing and relaxation.
- 5.6 Community Engagement** - four successful community engagement winter roadshows were held at various locations across Wyre. Led by our Community Engagement Team, partners from social care, mental health and NHS wellbeing teams attended the sessions and engaged with the public with us. To help plug a gap highlighted at the sessions the Community Engagement Team will be supporting a new volunteer befriending service to work alongside NHS social prescribers. Our team will help recruit volunteers through the normal council volunteer recruitment process so that that they are an additional resource for NHS social prescribers to support residents who are isolated across the borough.
- 5.7 Holiday Activity Fund (HAF)** - we have provided the popular HAF programme again in Wyre this Easter for children and young people who are on free school meals or those that are children that are classed as vulnerable. We work closely with seven local providers at venues across Wyre to provide a wide variety of activities, including for the first time a pixel craft camp which enabled children to try coding. Other activities available at the clubs include swimming, dodgeball, tenpin bowling, kayaking, arts and crafts and much more. In total there were 18 clubs/offers over eight days of the Easter holidays. We have had over 1,500 bookings and the children have really enjoyed the activities and the nutritious meal that was also provided as part of this free club offer.

6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 6.1** 30,000 copies of the new 'What's On' brochure for Wyre Theatres have gone out for distribution over the last month. Ticket sales continue to increase with many shows completely selling out at both Theatres. Recent sold out shows organised and promoted by the team include the 'Jive Talkin' Bee Gees Tribute show at Marine Hall and 'A Celebration of Simon and Garfunkel' at Thornton Little Theatre. Further details about

events at our Theatres can be found at www.wyretheatres.co.uk and on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages.

- 6.2** We have had some interest from several TV programmes which will be filmed at Marine Hall over the next few months including Dickinson's Real Deal. These will be promoted as soon as details are finalised and the necessary permissions have been given.

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.