

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	6 July 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 Food Safety** – the council has a graduated approach to enforcement and work with food business operators to help them provide safe and hygienic food businesses. There are 1225 food businesses operating in Wyre and 93% are considered to be broadly compliant with food safety legislation (equivalent to a food hygiene rating of 3 or above). During the course of 2022/23, we have served Hygiene Improvement Notices in 16 premises, issued two simple cautions and prosecuted one food business. Businesses are visited unannounced and where there is evidence of poor hygiene, structure and/or management of the food business the necessary enforcement action will be taken which may lead to prosecution where businesses are not prioritising food safety sufficiently.

**2.2 Environmental Protection** – During 2022/23, the team dealt with the following service requests:-

- 107 Anti-Social Behaviour
- 7 Insect Nuisance
- 6 Light nuisance
- 83 Smoke and Fume
- 10 Grit and dust
- 15 Odour
- 160 Accumulation requests
- 124 Condition of premises
- 25 Drainage
- 59 Pest Control
- 9 Public Health Funeral requests
- 341 Noise

Where sufficient evidence can be obtained to support the complainant the team will have no hesitation in escalating the case and during the course of the year the team served 75 enforcement notices requiring the subject to remedy a particular problem.

### 3. Tourism and Events

- 3.1 Wyre's coronation celebrations** - Hundreds of people came together on Monday 8 May in Garstang to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Despite the rain there was a brilliant turn out. Families came to enjoy the live music and entertainment throughout the day and take part in the coronation walk which was extremely popular, with finishers receiving a commemorative medal. Feedback from the day was really positive and we hope to host the walk every year for families as part of Garstang Walking Festival.
- 3.2 Tourism network** - Following the recent Wyred Up networking meeting which was themed around the visitor economy, the team have started work on setting up a tourism network of local businesses. Our ambition is to have a database of all Wyre's tourist attractions and places to stay so that we can promote them through our channels and together create a shared campaign to encourage more people to visit Wyre. We have created a sense of place toolkit and shared this with businesses who have signed up to the network. This contains access to free photography and videos of Wyre as well as promotional wording to use. As part of this work we will also be visiting businesses in our network so that we can get new photography, speak to the business owners and produce a regular business spotlight which we will share on our Discover Wyre channels.
- 3.3 Half term and summer fun in Wyre** - We pulled together activities happening at our venues and at other attractions across Wyre and shared these through a half term campaign to encourage people to come to Wyre in the holidays and also to let residents know what's taking place in the local area. There are lots of events happening across Wyre throughout summer – more details are on the Discover Wyre website - [Events – Discover Wyre](#).

### 4. Health and Community Engagement

- 4.1 Working with People with Disabilities** - We are supporting two regular sessions for people with disabilities. Every other Saturday there is a club for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Fleetwood Leisure Centre organised by the Play Inclusion Project, a local disability charity. The club gives up to 12 children every week the opportunity to go swimming and take part in a wide variety of activities including arts, crafts and games. Since it started in January 2023, there have been over 100 attendances supported by staff and carers. There is often a lack of provision to support SEND families so we are delighted to be able to support the Play Inclusion Project to provide this much needed activity session. Wyre Wheels, our disability cycling programme re-started at Memorial Park, Fleetwood in March and will continue until October. Every Friday we offer people with disabilities and those with long term health conditions, such as those who have had a stroke, the

opportunity to ride a range of bikes, trikes and wheelchair bikes. The session runs with the support of a large number of volunteers and is really popular. Average attendance is now over 20 people per session and the participants really love coming every Friday.

- 4.2 Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)** - The HAF programme ran again over the Easter holidays and is going from strength to strength with parents booking 1,559 sessions for their children and young people and 1,375 attending, (89% attendance rate), which we were delighted with. In total, there were 18 HAF clubs and offers at venues across Wyre provided by eight different local providers. We worked with five local sandwich providers, six local artists and a company providing healthy eating/nutrition advice sessions to support our delivery. We had some really good feedback from the children and parents. We also supported a Children's nature-themed arts and crafts session at the outdoor classroom, Stanah – children made lovely painted plant pots, potted up mini daffodils and made Easter-themed wreaths to take home.
- 4.3 Dementia Action Week (15th – 21st May)** - We held a week of reminiscence sessions across the borough to promote awareness and support for people living with dementia and their carers. We engaged with many residents in libraries, at Alexandra Care Home in Poulton and at Healthier Fleetwood, Affinity where we held a collaborative session with colleagues from The Walnut Tree (an organisation supporting those with early onset dementia). The sessions were well attended and attendees enjoyed looking at the wide variety of reminiscence artefacts.
- 4.4 Supporting Local Community Groups** - In April, we held a funding event for local third sector organisations which was well attended. We had presentations from the Walney Extension Community Fund, the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund as well as the Wyre Community Lottery. Following the event, five organisations booked in for appointments with our Senior Community Engagement & Research Officer these were: Garstang Arts, DW Skills, Jars of Joy, Walnut Tree and the Flounders (Disability) Swimming Club. Various levels of support are required e.g. business/project planning, finding and applying for funding, group set-up and paperwork/constitutional matters. Supporting local third sector organisations is a key priority for the Active Lives and Communities Team and, so far this year, we have already met with 25 independent groups and organisations providing them with a range of support. If members are aware of local community groups that need support please signpost them through to the team.
- 4.5 Community engagement roadshows** - The Communities team have been out and about earlier last month on one of their regular healthy communities roadshows. As part of the week long roadshow, the team visited Over Wyre Medical Centre, Thornton and Poulton Libraries as well as Booths Supermarket in Garstang. As well as listening to local residents, we promoted our health and wellbeing offer, in particular our wide ranging volunteering opportunities at Wyre Council to link in with the nationally recognised Volunteering week. We also gave advice to residents on issues such as recycling. We will be repeating these roadshows later in the summer and in the autumn.

## **5. YMCA Leisure Centres**

- 5.1** Our Leisure Centres continue to be well utilised, despite the challenging economic environment that they are operating in. There were over 654,000 visits to our YMCA Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools in 2022/23, a 19% increase on 2021/22, which is a great result. We have over 6,500 members at our facilities, with an increase in the number of people who took out direct debit memberships in particular this year. There were also over 2,500 local children on the Learn to Swim and School Swimming Pool programme across our facilities.

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

- 6.1** The TV recording of Dickinson's Real Deal at Marine Hall in May was a great success, with the highest turnout the producers had seen for a long while! The crew arrived in Fleetwood on a gloriously sunny day and took the opportunity to film across the town over the weekend. The programme is due to be shown on ITV early in 2024.
- 6.2** BBC Question Time will also be filming live from Marine Hall in July. Information about this has not yet been published on the programme's website. When the date is announced, there will be a link to the application process for those who wish to be in the audience.

## **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.