

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	14 September 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** As part of an eight week rolling programme led by the Environment Agency our Environmental Health team participated in a day of action across Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde. In total 25 permitted waste sites on the Fylde Coast were visited by a joint team of enforcement officers. These sites varied in nature from end of life vehicle sites to skip hire companies and included locations at which the Environment Agency has previously received reports of concern from members of the public. In addition to offering advice and guidance to some site operators, eight suspected permit breaches were recorded, officers came across an illegal waste site and intervened at a site which was illegally burning waste. All identified issues will now be pursued by the Environment Agency's Morecambe Bay Team.

3. Tourism and Events

- 3.1** Along with the countryside team we have attended events across Wyre to showcase the great things our borough has to offer. We have produced a new range of Discover Wyre branded merchandise featuring illustrations of Wyre to give out at events containing details of our tourism website to encourage people to check back and see what's on in Wyre. Our newly produced giant deckchair is also now in use at events, providing a photo opportunity for visitors. Our strong branding and web details are clearly visible and our hope is that photos will be shared far and wide and help put Wyre on the map.
- 3.2** We are meeting with the organisers of the recent Star Wars meet up in Cleveleys to work together on an event for next year. We hope that this

high quality event will attract visitors from all over the country as it grows in popularity year on year.

- 3.3 We are working on promoting our filming offer for Wyre, creating pages on our website for visitors looking for film locations to experience, and also for production companies looking for new locations. We are updating all of Wyre's locations on the Filming England database to promote our unique assets to large scale productions.
- 3.4 A summer family day was held at Fleetwood Market for families on 19 August involving lots of traditional family fun including a Punch and Judy show, balloon making, open top bus rides and live music. It was all for free and was a great success.
- 3.5 We are working on promoting Heritage Open Day events in Wyre to help people discover more about the history and heritage of our towns and buildings throughout September.

4. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 4.1 Marine Hall will be open for Heritage Open Days on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 September from 10am until 4pm. The free entry events will feature an exhibition, live music from Joe Boe and heritage talks throughout the day. There will also be free entry to The Mount Pavilion on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September from 10am until 4pm, as part of the same initiative, hosted by Fleetwood Civic Society.
- 4.2 Shows coming up at Marine Hall over the next few weeks, include 'The Three Degrees', supported by local band 'The Casinos' (Friday 22 September) and a week of 'Phantom of The Opera' performed by Thornton and Cleveleys Operatic Society (24—28 October). More information about tickets for all shows at both Theatres can be found at www.wyretheatres.co.uk

5. Active Lives and Community Engagement

- 5.1 **Round 2 of Crowdfund Lancashire – Wyre Projects:** We have supported and promoted local clubs and organisations to apply to the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund crowdfunding opportunity. Five local projects have been successful in gaining a pledge from the fund if they hit their fundraising targets. The Round 2 local projects are: Thornton Cleveleys Gala 126 Celebration; Help Us Combat Domestic Abuse; Lancashire Sea Change; Dukes Cinema on Tour and; Step into Joy Fest 24 Fleetwood. We hope that these projects hit their targets and gain the funding from the fund. Keep Wyre Grooving and Celebrating Kirkland and Catterall Memorial Hall have already hit their targets from the previous round of funding. You can read more and support the projects at <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/lancashire>
- 5.2 **Children's Swimming Lesson data for 2022/23 – 48 schools** participated in school swimming lessons at our pools during 2022/23. 11 schools visited Fleetwood pool, 17 visited Poulton and 20 took lessons at Garstang pool. This resulted in 2216 children benefiting from school swimming lessons across all the pools during the year (807 of these at

Fleetwood, 788 at Poulton and 621 in Garstang). On top of this there were an additional 1333 children per week on the YMCA's learn to swim programme over the year (550 per week at Fleetwood pool, 356 per week at Poulton pool and 427 per week at Garstang. Feedback from school swimming and the participants of other YMCA swimming lessons continues to be very good.

- 5.3** In the Forest of Bowland and rural areas volunteers have undertaken 30m of dry-stone walling at Cobble Hey as part of our commitment to supporting the development and practice of traditional boundary management skills. They have erected approximately 50m of post and rail fencing in two locations around the Brock picnic site. This will help to ease parking congestion and assist in water safety. The volunteers have also restored a footbridge at Holmewood, making it safe for public on a popular concessionary path that links in with Nicky Nook. In addition, the County Council has utilised funding from the Forest of Bowland AONB to construct over 500m of new footpath improvements to Nicky Nook Fell paths.

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** 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.