

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	30 November 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. Tourism and Events

- 2.1** Last month we hosted two Halloween themed events. 1,400 people attended our family theatre performances of the Nightmare Before Christmas in Poulton and Pilling with both venues being fully booked, plus 150 people came to our pumpkin carving event at Fleetwood Market, bringing new people in and increasing footfall. Feedback from both events was excellent with families really enjoying the chance to get out and have fun for free.
- 2.2** We are working on our calendar of events for 2024. This will include recent new additions such as our older person's festive get together, the coronation walk as part of Garstang Walking Festival and free family theatre. We are also looking at a number of new events including a Family Festival in the summer, Mythic Coast storytelling tours and we will be supporting an annual Star Wars event in Cleveleys. We look forward to publishing full details soon.
- 2.3** Next week is our festive get together for our more senior residents. It is taking place from 2pm to 4pm on Friday 8 December at Poulton Community Hall. Everyone is welcome. There will be carol singing and bingo plus there will be people from the council and other local clubs and organisations to chat to on the day.

3. Fylde and Wyre Health and Wellbeing Partnership

- 3.1** Three priority areas have been identified by the partnership to focus upon; lifestyle support and prevention activity; children and young people's mental health and wellbeing and; supporting older people to keep well. Workshops on each of these areas are taking place to refine

these priorities, to understand what work is already taking place across the Fylde and Wyre Districts and to develop a work plan to oversee collaborative partnership activity. The first workshop focussing on lifestyle support and prevention activity was very well attended by partners and took place on Wednesday 1 November. A second workshop, looking at the other two priority areas, is planned for Wednesday 6 December 2023.

4. Active Lives and Community Engagement

4.1 Support for Rural Community Organisations: The Rural Facilities Fund is funded by the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and we have been working hard to encourage Wyre rural based community organisations to apply to this capital fund over the last few months. The funding is to support community organisations that specifically support the communities of rural east and west Wyre to deliver activities and services that enhance local health and wellbeing and keep people connected in their community. The capital funding will help support important community facilities that bring people together, address isolation and promote community engagement. We have had four applications and have been able to fund two of the bids through the fund. Cloughton Memorial Village Hall and Hambleton Village Hall were both successful. We will work with the two unsuccessful applicants to try to find them alternative funding.

4.2 Voluntary Community and Faith Sector consultation exercise: The Active Lives and Communities Team have consulted with the voluntary community and faith sector in Wyre via a survey offering help to our valued not for profit organisations. The survey was sent to approximately 500 groups and organisations operating in Wyre. There were a number of common subject areas where organisations requested support and information. The most common requests for information were across the following areas:

- fundraising strategy and funding applications
- marketing PR and accounting
- health and safety, food safety and first aid
- GDPR, Governance and Committee Board Rules
- partnership working
- monitoring and evaluating work for presenting to future funders
- Committee or Board roles and responsibilities.

4.3 Active Wyre Awards: Our annual celebration of sporting achievements and community action took place on 17 October at the Active Wyre Awards. We received over 70 nominations for individuals, clubs, schools and community organisations and those who were shortlisted attended the award ceremony here at the Civic Centre. These very popular awards aim to celebrate local community groups and individuals promoting active lifestyles as much as sporting achievements. The awards pay tribute to those who show dedication to perform at the highest level and those who work tirelessly to support their local community, creating an environment where people can be active and thrive. As well as the ten winners, judges decided to highlight ten others as highly commended due to the very high calibre of nominees. Our

winners have since gone on to represent Wyre at the Active Lancashire awards ceremony that took place on Friday 17 November.

5. Leisure Centres

- 5.1 Swimming Pool Support Fund Bid Success:** The government's Swimming Pool Support Fund launched earlier in the year to allow local authorities to bid for a total of £60 million as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools. The funding was split into two phases, Phase I - Revenue: £20m being available to support facilities with swimming pools with increased cost pressures and Phase II - Capital: £40m for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities with pools in the medium to long term.
- 5.2** We are delighted to have been awarded £142,107 of Swimming Pool Support Fund funding Phase 1 (revenue funding) which is broken down to £70,156 for Fleetwood pool, £52,183 for Poulton pool and £19,768 for Garstang pool. The funding will help contribute to the rise in utility and chemical costs, both of which have gone up significantly over the past few years. This is a great achievement as not all local authorities were successful in receiving funding and this will make a real difference to help support our swimming pools in Wyre.
- 5.3** In October we submitted a bid for the Phase 2 capital fund, which is for measures that will help reduce energy usage and the carbon footprint of our pools. We await the outcome of this bid.

6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 6.1** Phantom of The Opera performed by Thornton-Cleveleys Operatic Society at Marine Hall in October was a tremendous success with several sold out shows and fabulous reviews. Other amateur productions coming up at our theatres include 'Nativity! The Musical' by Cou Cou Theatre Productions at Marine Hall and Matilda Junior by Starlight Stage School at Thornton Little Theatre.
- 6.2** Professional shows coming up at Wyre Theatres in December include Comedian Ed Byrne at Thornton Little Theatre (sold out) as well as 'The Jerseys' and 'We Three Kings' at Marine Hall.
- 6.3** The Panto at Marine Hall this year is Snow White, and performances will take place between Christmas and New Year on Friday 29 December, Saturday 30 December and Sunday 31 December. Featuring Kerry Katona (as wicked Queen Morgana), the sensational Lilly Sue McFadden (as Snow White) and Ben Sherlock (as Wally). All tickets are £15 and can be bought online at www.wyretheatres.co.uk.

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.

