

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
Cllr. Lynne Bowen, Leisure & Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	19 January 2017	8(f)

<b>Executive Report: Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder</b>
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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Leisure and Culture Portfolio, as set out below.

**2. Volunteering**

- 2.1** We have entered into an exciting new partnership with Blackpool and Fylde College that will see the Council benefit from additional support across our sites and the students gaining valuable work experience.
- 2.2** Officers from the Volunteer Service and Parks & Open Spaces Team recently visited the College and have established a partnership that will see students completing 20 hours of volunteering as part of their education and more hours may be offered in future.
- 2.3** We will be identifying a number of our sites across the Borough, mainly parks, in need of additional maintenance. The college will then work with us and send students out to these areas and help on various projects. Students will be provided with materials and may also construct certain pieces of work within the college.

**3. Tourism and visitor services**

- 3.1** The Garstang Victorian Festival took place in and around the streets and shops of Garstang on 12 and 13 December. The shops were open and there were over 50 stalls lining the streets with many events and activities taking place for the family. The Council took an active role with the John Gillmore Show being presented from the Visit Garstang Tourist Information Centre throughout the day promoting the Festival, events and activities in Wyre and the Borough itself for visitors. The Tourist Information Centre was very busy on both evenings – on Monday 12 December alone, between 5pm to 9pm, we received 700 visitors making it our busiest day of the year.

#### **4. Cemetery and bereavement services**

- 4.1** I am pleased to report that the cemetery service was once again a finalist in the Association of Public Service Excellence Awards (APSE). Although we didn't win we were scored as being within one of the top five services in the country - this is a fantastic achievement as 47 authorities entered the category.
- 4.2** The columbarium development at Fleetwood Cemetery is to receive its sixth unit in order to meet to demand. Each unit has sixteen niches with each niche having the ability to hold up to four ashes caskets. The ashes section has also been increased for the third time providing a further twenty plots.
- 4.3** Also at Fleetwood Cemetery, with support from the Co-Op Funeralcare and Brent Stevensons Memorials, we have installed a memorial for James Thompson, the first person to be buried in Fleetwood in 1846. Previously there had been no memorial in place and this is an important point of interest for a planned history trail on site. The history trail will take place in September as part of the National Heritage Open Days but groups will be able to book a trail on-line. We will be contacting local schools to identify any interest for tailor made trails.

#### **5. Sports development**

- 5.1** At the recent Lancashire Sports Awards, Wyre's Simon Ardron won the Coach of the Year Award. As a club coach to a number of local tennis clubs Simon gets no funding from the clubs but uses the facilities to promote the sport and encourage children into clubs to play tennis. In particular he has been very involved in improving and expanding the membership of St. Michaels on Wyre Tennis Club and Thornton Tennis Club where links have been developed with local schools and tennis tournaments organised in the area.

#### **6. Marine Hall**

- 6.1** The Marine Hall was very busy in the run up to Christmas. The festivities started with the popular Christmas market. The market attracted 55 stalls and over 3,000 visitors. The venue also hosted Gerry Cross the Mersey, the ever popular Pantomime and The Rat Pack. This year's panto also included local children in one of the performances. Other notable events were the Wyre Business Awards, Fleetwood and District Choral Society Christmas Concert, Old Time Dance, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Princes Trust Charity, the Sure Start Christmas Party and the Scouts celebration of 100 years of scouting.

#### **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.