

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	6 September 2018	7(f)

Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
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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, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

2. Sport and Physical Activity

Parkour

- 2.1** Wyre Council, in partnership with Active Lancashire launched a 10 week pilot project on 4 July to offer parkour sessions at Memorial Park, Fleetwood. The sessions held at Memorial Park are aimed at 14-19 year olds and take place every Wednesday evening from 6pm - 8pm. The aim is to reduce antisocial behaviour whilst encouraging young people to become active. The numbers attending the session have been reaching approximately 24 each week with regular attendees and is proving to be a popular activity. The pilot is proving a success and will hopefully be continued after September.

Fleetwood Promenade Park Run

- 2.2** Wyre Council Sports Development have been the lead organisation in the creation of Fleetwood Promenade Parkrun which was successfully launched on August 4th. The project has taken over a year to recruit, train and develop a core team of over ten volunteers so that they have the right skills in order to run a parkrun event. At the first park run on the 4th August, there were 158 runners and 14 volunteers, which is a fantastic start. Fleetwood Promenade Parkrun is a free weekly timed 5k run or walk starting from Fleetwood YMCA every Saturday morning at 9am. The project will contribute to improving fitness levels, mental health, confidence and quality of life.

3. Arts, Events and Volunteering

Siren's Song

- 3.1** To celebrate the Wyre coastline a music event took place on Saturday 4 August featuring one man bands, boom bikes and a programme of young performers. A development leading from this event will be further work with UpBeat Academy based in Poulton over the summer of 2019 to produce a programme for young bands, culminating in three or four separate events in Marine Gardens.

Volunteering

- 3.2** The Wyre Council volunteer programme continues to go from strength to strength, with 228 volunteers and the number of volunteer hours at an all-time high of 8,817 hours donated between April – June 2018.

Just Reminiscing

- 3.3** A review of the eight week drop-in reminiscence sessions at Fleetwood Market took place in July. The project was deemed a success by the volunteers and participants. During this period rapport was built up with local visitors, of whom some brought in their own artefacts and replicas to add to the collection. The time spent talking with people increased, and some really interesting anecdotes were collected. There were approximately 400 visits to the sessions, a mix of local residents and holidaymakers. Sessions will resume at the market on 21st September.
- 3.4** Planning is underway to roll out Just Reminiscing to other parts of Wyre including in Garstang with the Garstang Medical Practice Patient Participation Steering Group, in Hambleton through a local friends group and in Knott End working with the memory café. It is hoped sessions in these areas will start mid-autumn.

4. Community Engagement

- 4.1** We are continuing to promote the FYi Directory to raise the profile of this valuable local resource. This month we visited the Garstang Medical Centre and the Garstang Tourist Information Centre to raise awareness of the directory with patients and residents and how people can access information regarding health and wellbeing in their area. There were also visits to the Patient Participation Group at Garstang, with visits also planned for Great Eccleston and Over Wyre in September.
- 4.2** Over the summer The National Citizen Service for 15-17 year olds has been active in Wyre with over 200 young people taking part in social action projects and challenges. The Community Engagement Team have been actively supporting the development of this programme with event support and with an officer attending the Dragon's Den element of the challenge.
- 4.3** The Council's tourism website www.discoverwyre.co.uk is performing well in 2018 with unique visitor numbers growing significantly from 14,196 between January to May 2017 to 22,359 between January to May 2018.

5. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 5.1** The Harmony and Health sessions at Marine Hall have now grown to a size where we may need to consider moving the group into the main auditorium, subject to availability around other events. Numbers attending the singing sessions at Thornton Little Theatre are also up with over 50+ attendees recently. Harmony and Health in Hambleton is underway and growing with 20+ attendees and further singing groups are being explored elsewhere Over Wyre.
- 5.2** Wyre Theatres continue to work closely with Healthier Fleetwood. At the end of July, Healthier Fleetwood held a showcase dance event 'Fleetwood Loves Dancing' at Marine Hall. This free event aimed to showcase a wide range of dance available to enjoy, either as a means of socialising with others and/or to improve levels of activity. This was well attended, everyone enjoyed themselves and we had great feedback.
- 5.3** At the end of July, The British Dance Championships were held at Marine Hall. This was a week long, high profile event that brought large numbers of people into the area from across the country generating income for the venue and the local economy. After a number of highly successful events, the organiser has committed to extending the hire period by another few days and hiring the venue for another three years.
- 5.4** This year's Heritage Open Days will be on Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 September 2018. Members of the public are encouraged to come along to Marine Hall and other participating venues to find out more about the historic buildings.

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.