

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	6 December 2018

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. Food Safety

- 2.1** Food Safety Officers have recently completed sampling surveys of premises selling milkshakes. Officers took samples from a random selection of catering premises of ready to drink milkshakes and component ingredients e.g. milk, ice cream, purees and flavourings. In addition environmental swabs were taken of work surfaces, cleaning cloths and mixers used for milkshake preparation.
- 2.2** In some instances the results of sampling identified unsatisfactory levels of bacteria. Officers have made follow up visits to all the premises where unsatisfactory samples were found and provided advice on how to properly clean equipment, work surfaces and cloths to help avoid risks of cross contamination and potential illness.
- 2.3** The exercise proved very helpful to the businesses in raising awareness of good food hygiene practices and the prevention of cross contamination.

3. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

An update on recent and forthcoming events at the Theatres

- 3.1** The last few months have been extremely busy at both of our Theatres with local amateur dramatic groups continuing to play a major part in our programmes. Thornton Cleveleys Operatic Society recently staged their production of 'Annie' at Marine Hall in front of more than 1,700 people over the week and The Windmill Players performed 'The Accrington Pals' to almost full houses each night at Thornton Little Theatre. Poulton Drama presented 'Blackadder Goes Forth' at Thornton Little Theatre, concluding the Centenary themed events which took place in and around our Theatres throughout November.

- 3.2** Marine Hall opened its doors to the public for the second year running as part of the Fleetwood Firework Extravaganza which brought more than 10,000 people on to the Esplanade, The Mount and Marine Gardens this year.
- 3.3** All seats were taken for The Northern Festival of Remembrance the following day, and The Schools' Commemorative Concert the night after that was also a tremendous success - with most of the schools in the area taking part and selling tickets to cover the use of the venue.
- 3.4** 'Keep The Home Fires Burning' – a new musical featuring songs of the 'Great War' came to Marine Hall as part of its National Tour. Local community singers 'The Dream Team' sang alongside the professional cast and participated in a fabulous evening which received a standing ovation at the end of the night.
- 3.5** The Christmas Season is once again upon us with Marine Hall's Christmas Market welcoming record numbers of stalls and customers and another successful Christmas Lights Switch On in Marine Hall Gardens.
- 3.6** The Marine Hall Annual Panto this year is 'Jack and The Beanstalk' and features Steven Arnold, known for playing the part of 'Ashley' in Coronation Street. At the end of November, sales were higher than ever and continue to grow. Performances are on Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 December. There will also be a Panto at Thornton Little Theatre this Christmas. Local theatre group, Nogal Productions will present 'Aladdin' from 18 to 22 December.
- 3.7** To round off the year, Marine Hall is hosting its first New Year's Eve Party for some time. 'Brutus Gold's Love Train' travels around the World, playing to sold out venues everywhere. This will be a 70s party like no other in the area - So spread the word and start planning those 70s outfits!

4. Testing the market for a commercial partner

- 4.1** We will be testing the market to determine if there is a commercial partner that can help us to build on the improvements already made to maximise the potential and secure future investment for the Marine Hall complex. Our aspiration is for an innovative and economically viable 'Entertainment Hub' that offers an enhanced range of entertainment, leisure, cultural and commercial activities for both residents and visitors to Fleetwood. Expressions of interest from appropriately qualified partners are being sought which will allow interested parties to outline their views and suggest options with no commitment to or from the Council. The closing date for expressions of interest is 1 March 2019. It is not a formal procurement process and at this stage is intended to enable the council to consider options for the best way forward. We are committed to the Marine Hall as an important venue for events in the town and look forward to progressing this exciting opportunity to attract further investment.

5. Self-Care Week and new Neighbourhood Health Initiatives

- 5.1** During Self-Care Week 12 - 18 November, we worked closely with our Clinical Commissioning Group, GP and local authority partners promoting self-care. We were out and about throughout the week promoting self-care at local supermarkets, GP surgeries and libraries with our partner organisations Fylde Coast YMCA, the NHS QUIT squad, N-Compass and Age Concern. We produced a range of new health and wellbeing banners and a new Healthier Wyre brochure to promote our varied programme of health focused activities available across the borough. These materials are now out and about in GP surgeries, libraries and community venues.
- 5.2** We are building other key links with neighbourhood health colleagues to look at ways we can best work together to promote health and wellbeing. We have been supporting some of the GP surgeries with their flu clinics, such as at Thornton Medical Centre, where the i-bus was in attendance promoting health and wellbeing and volunteer opportunities. We are looking to pilot a Wyre Wound Clinic programme at Wyre Estuary Country Park. This will see the River Room as a new home for this patient group for an eight week period in the New Year. We also provided two taster reminiscence sessions in Garstang as part of self-care week, one at the Medical Centre and one at the Memory Clinic. We are hoping that these will become regular sessions in the town that local health and community professionals can signpost their clients to.

6. Tourism and Visitor Services

Lancashire Tourism Awards 2018

- 6.1** The Lancashire Tourism Awards 2018 took place in November. This increasingly prestigious event honoured local tourism and hospitality businesses. The event was held in Preston and catered for by Wyre Businesses – Twelve Restaurant and Dewlay Cheese.
- 6.2** Wyre winners included Fleetwood Market for Lancashire Retail Experience of the Year and the Taste Lancashire Restaurant of the Year went to Twelve Restaurant.

Garstang Victorian Festival

- 6.3** Final preparations are underway for Visit Garstang Centre's involvement in the event on 10 and 11 December. The Centre will be open all day until 9pm.

7. Arts and Events

The Final Homecoming

- 7.1** From the week beginning 5 November, the Marine Hall and the Final Homecoming marquee in Marine Hall Gardens became the focal point for a number of events that helped commemorate the end of the Centenary of the First World War. Events included, a schools' concert, a centenary tea dance, a community led variety show, a national beacon

lighting event and music residency by Patricia Hammond and Matt Redman.

- 7.2** From the Friday to the following Monday, the marquee hosted an exhibition comprising of a reminiscence area of artefacts, replicas documents and posters and placards. There were also children's activities such as shadow puppetry, clay modelling and a Guess the Pong game. Part of the exhibition included a scale model of a First World War tank created by students from Blackpool and Fylde College. This was to replicate the full size tank created in 1915 at Fleetwood Market to raise war bonds.
- 7.3** The finale of the week was a community parade on the Monday 12 November which went through the town centre and finished on the Esplanade. It was a fantastic event with crowds lining the streets and over 850 local people, mainly school children, participating in the parade.
- 7.4** As a satellite, Fleetwood Market hosted an exhibition, and created an exhibition of the Homefront in a reconstructed Edwardian Living room. On certain days, ghost actors, improvised the hardships and high emotions of that era, walking through the market and using the living room as a space for re-enactment.
- 7.5** Over 2,000 people participated in the Final Homecoming project, with a number of active community partners. Funding came from Heritage Lottery, Regenda, Fleetwood Town Council and Wyre Council.
- 7.6** An abridged documentary of the project and the events will be produced by local film maker George Greenall before the end of 2018

8. Comments and questions

- 8.1** 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.