

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	4 April 2019

<b>Executive Report: Leisure, Health and Community Engagement 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, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio, as set out below.

**2. Food safety**

**Brexit Preparations**

- 2.1** As part of preparations associated with Brexit the Food Safety Team have been liaising with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and local manufacturers who export fish products to the European Union (EU). At present these goods can move freely between the UK and the EU without border checks. However if the UK leaves the EU without a deal these goods will need to be accompanied by an Export Health Certificate. Without a certificate the goods will not be allowed into the EU. An Export Health Certificate for fish products can only be issued by Authorised Veterinarians or Authorised Officers of the council. The checks that will need to be undertaken are still being negotiated at a high level. To ensure there is sufficient capacity for officers to complete any necessary certification, arrangements have been made to cover the additional workload. The council is able to charge manufacturers on a cost recovery basis and intends to do so whilst keeping costs to a minimum.

**3. Environmental health**

**Self-Neglect Framework Agreement**

- 3.1** Lancashire County Council launched a Pan Lancashire Self-Neglect Framework Agreement on 20 March 2019 with the support of our officers who gave a presentation at the launch event in Preston. We have been closely involved in the development of the agreement and via integrated working with partner agencies we have been piloting a multi-agency self-neglect group.

- 3.2** We have successfully highlighted the impact of self-neglect not only on the individual concerned but also sometimes on neighbours and the community. Hoarded materials, for example, can provide harbourage for vermin which can subsequently impact upon neighbours. The council has a variety of powers and where we have appropriate evidence we can, and do, take enforcement action to remove any immediate hazards. However we recognise that it is only by working with our agency partners, including Adult Social Care and health services, that we can hope to reach a long term solution for both the individual who is self-neglecting and the community.

#### **4. Arts and events**

##### **Street theatre**

- 4.1** We have invited the Electric Sunshine Project to perform the traditional mummers play, St. George and the Dragon at a number of sites over the Easter Holidays. This mini-tour, delivered by professional actors, will see performances taking place at a number of our open air assets including Marsh Mill, Fleetwood Market, Wyre Estuary Country Park, Hawthorne Park, Garstang Town Centre and Cleveleys Plaza.

##### **Event staff training**

- 4.2** Via the Local Event Organisers Network (LEON) we are supporting local event organisers with two training packages. Firstly to accredit 24 voluntary marshals, so that they will be qualified to lead on traffic management elements during temporary road closures in which parades take place. And secondly, up to 30 voluntary event staff will be attending a one day course, run by the Arts and Events Development Officer, about creating a safe and secure event plan. Events in the borough are increasing in number and scale and part of the council's duty of care is to help and enable capacity building and skills for those who deliver such events.

#### **5. Volunteering**

- 5.1** New volunteering opportunities are being developed within Fleetwood. Fleetwood Job Centre aimed at helping those who are looking for work to get meaningful experience in the workplace with us. Our latest volunteer statistics are very strong with 213 active volunteers donating 32,939 hours during 2018.

#### **6. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre**

- 6.1** February and March have been busy months at both of our theatres. The 37th CAMRA Annual Fleetwood Beer Festival that took place at Marine Hall and was another great success. Dates are already reserved in the diary for next year's event.

- 6.2** A particular highlight over those weeks was the ‘Fleetwood Voice’ performance which was the culmination of a year-long arts and heritage project in Fleetwood, initiated by Regenda and supported by the council. Composer John McHugh worked with local people, including musicians and those involved in the fishing industry and made recordings which inspired him to compose a piece of music, accompanied by video. This was premiered on the stage at Marine Hall by members of The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra on 22 February. The free tickets were snapped up within weeks and the evening ended with an emotional standing ovation from the audience.
- 6.3** Over the Valentine’s weekend Marine Hall hosted its first wedding of the year and also a Wedding Open Day to launch ‘Wonderful Wyre Weddings’. The Lancashire and North West Magazine included a six page feature on our wedding venues in their March edition. The article featured photos and information about Marine Hall, Thornton Little Theatre, The Mount Pavilion and The Civic Centre. Over 50 potential customers attended the open day, and there has been a significant increase in wedding enquiries over the last month or so, resulting in more wedding bookings for 2019 and 2020 – especially at Marine Hall and The Mount Pavilion.
- 6.4** The new online brochure for our wedding venues with a difference can be viewed at [www.wyre.gov.uk/weddings](http://www.wyre.gov.uk/weddings) .We will be adding further information, photographs and reviews over the coming months.
- 6.5** I am pleased that our theatres are to be part of The Access Fylde Coast Project led by Disability First. Funding has been secured through this project for a number of exciting and high profile disability friendly events at venues along the coast over this next year. Further details will be announced at the press launch which will take place at The Winter Gardens in Blackpool on 24 April.

## **7. Tourism and visitor services**

- 7.1** The Discover Wyre Guide 2019 has launched in time for Easter 2019. There are digital and hard copy versions available. The Guide has been produced at no cost to the council with advertising revenue paying for both design and print costs. The guide has a strong online presence and will be the main focus of promotion to potential visitors on where to stay, play, eat and meet in Wyre. A copy of the guide is available at [www.discoverwyre.co.uk](http://www.discoverwyre.co.uk).

## **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.