

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	11 July 2019

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. Environmental Health

Food Safety

- 2.1 The Food Safety Team have submitted their annual data return to the Food Standards Agency and I am pleased to report excellent results. At the time of the return there were 1,120 food businesses operating within Wyre and I am pleased to advise that 96% of those businesses were considered to be broadly compliant with food hygiene legislation. The 4% of non-compliant premises will remain a focus for graduated enforcement action with the aim of improving compliance.

Health and Safety

- 2.2 Health and safety enforcement agencies are now directed to a risk based approach based on targeted enforcement. As an enforcement agency we are provided with a list of national priorities and a list of specific activities in defined sectors that are suitable for targeting for proactive inspection.
- 2.3 The HSE priorities we will be concentrating on this year are: animal visitor centres (due to the risk of infection from E.coli 0157); responding to complaints, incidents and RIDDOR notifications; beverage gases in the hospitality industry (awareness raising on securing bottles, trained operators and means of escape); gas safety in catering premises; inflatable amusement device safety and manual handling in the care sector.
- 2.4 During 2018/19 I can report that we: issued two prohibition notices, which prevented defective equipment being used until they were either repaired or replaced; successfully prosecuted a company for health and safety breaches following a RIDDOR reportable incident; investigated

45 accidents, 33 health and safety related complaints and undertook a further 26 pro-active inspections.

Environmental Protection

- 2.5** The 2019 draft air quality annual status report has been produced and will soon be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for approval. I am pleased to report that initial findings indicate that EU targets for Nitrogen Dioxide have not been exceeded anywhere within the Borough. In the next few years we expect the electric car infrastructure to increase within the Borough and this should have a further positive impact on air quality as more and more people make the switch to electric cars.

3. Arts and events

Garstang Scarecrow Festival – Towpath Project

- 3.1** Local artists were recently commissioned to work with patients and community at Over Wyre Medical Centre and Garstang Library on a Towpath Project to design and build scarecrows along an arts trail on the canal during the increasingly popular Garstang Scarecrow Festival. Engagement with the community was fantastic in the lead up to the event held from 5 July to 7 July.

4. Community Engagement

Alley Transformation Projects

- 4.1** We are working with partners to progress a number of community development projects around the transformation of alleyways and residents are being invited to refer their alleys. A resident led pilot transformation is underway in the Pharos Ward of Fleetwood, with the support of Fleetwood Town Council, and is due to be part of the In Bloom entry this year for the town. The alley project has generated a lot of interest with one of our Facebook posts reaching close to 14,000 people and over 4,000 interactive engagements.
- 4.2** The success of this pilot scheme has generated lots of positive feedback and a number of referrals for further potential schemes via the Love Where You Live, Beautiful Back Alley Project.

5. Leisure and Sports Development

Football Facilities Initiative

- 5.1** As part of a national programme with Sport England we are working with the Football Association and consultants KKP to audit the Borough's grass, 3G and 4G football pitches and changing rooms. We will be working with partners to identify where it is considered the priority sites are and where it is considered investment is needed.

6. Tourism and visitor services

- 6.1** Marsh Mill opened its doors for the 2019 season from Easter and is currently open at the weekends. There are seven special thematic events this year when the sails turn. The next is on 13 and 14 July when there will be an artisan bread tasting event in conjunction with award winning Twelve Restaurant. Twenty Cubs visited us on 8 July and the U3A are bringing a group on 15 July. Promotion continues on both www.discoverwyre.co.uk and a poster bus stop campaign to raise awareness of visits to the Mill. Work is ongoing to plan Marsh Mill Heritage Open Days in September and the 225th Birthday Party Event in October 2019
- 6.2** Radio promotion for Wyre has been particularly strong this period with regular slots on Radio Wave promoting things to see and do in Cleveleys and Fleetwood (focussing on events and attractions) as well as coastal and rural coverage on BBC Radio Lancashire.
- 6.3** The Visit Garstang Centre is hosting its annual 'Summer Shop' on 25 July, promoting and selling local artists' arts and crafts as well as promoting the things to see and do in Wyre.

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.