

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Lynne Bowen, Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder	Council	15 June 2017	8(f)

Executive Report: Leisure and Culture Portfolio Holder

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. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre

- 2.1 Marine Hall has been busy over recent weeks, with Monday afternoon Tea Dances, an Easter Panto (featuring Basil Brush and Keith Chegwin), a number of well-attended music events (including The Blues Band, The Vera Lynn Story and The Upbeat Beatles) and several community events including a new booking with the Scouts on St George's Day and a public consultation about Larkholme Grasslands. The Tea Dances are now regularly attracting more than 100 dancers and Radio Lancashire will be broadcasting from the venue to highlight this growing popularity on 3 July.
- 2.2 Thornton Little Theatre continues to host well supported community performances and fundraising events as well as providing regular meeting room space for groups such as U3A and Life Long Learners. Recent new customers include The Thornton Practice who hired the venue for the first time in April for their Medical Centre Away Day.
- 2.3 Panto tickets are already selling well for this December at Marine Hall. There are three performances set up especially for school groups. Of these, one show is already sold out and the other two are more than 50% sold. All schools who attended last year have rebooked. The Marine Hall team are now contacting other schools to ensure a full house at all three shows.

3. Tourism

- 3.1 We have had excellent publicity on Radio Lancashire over recent weeks with coverage from Rossall School, Marsh Mill and Garstang Walking Festival.
- 3.2 The John Gilmore Show was presented live from Rossall School when our Tourism Development Officer attended to promote Easter in Wyre, things to see and do, as well as a general promotion of the coast and its assets.

- 3.3** At Marsh Mill we promoted a ‘treasure hunt’ to coincide with the Easter opening event at the Mill and most recently we had great coverage when, on 8 May, the John Gilmore Show was again hosted live, this time from the Visit Garstang Tourist Information Centre. The main aim on this occasion was to promote the Garstang Walking Festival and the Visit Garstang TIC as its main hub, whilst also promoting all things to see and do in rural Wyre in readiness for half term and summer.
- 3.4** Recently we successfully promoted Wyre to a delegation of Group Travel Organisers and Coach Operators. This event, held in partnership with Fleetwood Market and Freeport Fleetwood, enabled us to promote Wyre with the intention of the operators including Wyre in their itineraries for 2017/18.
- 3.5** A familiarisation visit was held on 20 April for fifteen operators who were taken to a range of attractions including Fleetwood Museum, Fleetwood Market, Freeport, Farmer Parrs, Marsh Mill and Twelve restaurant. Feedback from the visit, which culminated with a show at Marine Hall, has been good.

4. Sports development

- 4.1 Sportivate** - Further funding applications have been submitted to Lancashire Sport by Fleetwood Town Community Trust with the support of sports development. The projects include beginner running in Thornton and an Inclusion Club for young disabled people.
- 4.2 Community Health and Wellbeing Project** - Working in collaboration with Fleetwood Town Community Trust we are pleased to announce that the Trust have been successful in their application to the Walney Extension Community Fund. £40,000 of grant monies provided by DONG Energy UK will now support the community health and wellbeing project along with match funding of £8,000 from the sports development budget and £10,000 from Fleetwood Town Community Trust. Match funding contributions have been an essential factor in the success of this application which will deliver across three strands of work significantly contributing towards the council’s business plan. The three strands are:
- A children and family wellness programme to help address the growing levels of childhood obesity focused on educating children and their parents about making healthy choices.
 - A men’s health and lifestyle management programme which aims to raise awareness and tackle issues of heart disease, low physical activity levels, cancer prevention and mental health & wellbeing.
 - A training, education & lifestyle management programme which will concentrate on encouraging young people aged 16-18 who are currently ‘at risk’ to make the transition towards education and employment.
- 4.3 Wyre Sports Awards** - Nominations for the Wyre Sports Awards open on 12 June. I would like to encourage you to support nominations for the awards from our inspirational sports leaders and participants. The closing date for nominations is 21 July.

The categories this year are:

- Coach of the Year
- Community Club of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Adult Volunteer of the Year
- Primary School of the Year
- Secondary School of the Year
- Young Achiever of the Year
- Service to Disability Sport
- Lifetime Achievement - Commitment to Sport
- Active Workplace of the Year
- Community Project of the Year
- Contribution to Women's Participation

4.4 Free Cycle Leader Training - Working in partnership with British Cycling, a number of free cycle leader training courses have been organised to help encourage more people from across Wyre to become ride leaders. The assessed one-day course qualifies people to deliver guided bike rides for groups of beginner and intermediate level adults and accompanied children on roads and cycle paths.

5. Comments and questions

5.1 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.