

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder	Council	3 October 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. Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre**

- 2.1** The Theatre Dance Council International returned to Marine Hall in July, extending their Annual Dance Competition to eight days this year. Competitors came from across the World to take part in the highly respected competition. This event has a positive impact not only on income generation for the theatre but also for local businesses, including hotels, campsites and other accommodation. We look forward to welcoming the competition back in 2020 and 2021.
- 2.2** Also in July, Wyre Theatres promoted an event at Cleveleys Plaza, as part of the Access Fylde Coast Project. ILL-ABILITIES is an International Breakdance Crew, comprised of eight 'differently-abled' dancers from across the world. Rather than seeing the negative limitations of disability their mission is to focus on their positive abilities. Local young dancers came down to the plaza to watch their inspirational performance and join them in workshops. On an amazingly sunny day, there was a real 'buzz' in Cleveleys all afternoon about this event with fantastic feedback and reviews.
- 2.3** Over 3,000 people visited The Fylde Coast Food and Drink Festival in August. In a move to attract more families, a funfair and new children's zone was added to this popular annual event. Many new stall holders joined us this year and have rebooked for next year's festival. We also introduced a new chef for the cookery demonstrations who placed a strong emphasis on promoting local produce and healthier eating.

### **3. Arts and events**

#### **Wyre Creatives**

- 3.1** Wyre Creatives is the network that supports local professional artists. During August they were involved in consultation around the proposed artists' studios at Fleetwood Market. Their ideas include practical and flexible use of studio spaces, exhibitions in the heart of the market and the market being developed as a creative hub with training and participatory workshops.

#### **Events**

- 3.2** It has been another busy season for events in the borough, both on private and public land. A review will be available before Christmas which will provide some detail in terms of the types and scale of events, attendances and locations. We have issued 42 licences so far for events with 52 expected by the end of this year. We have also supported, and advised through Wyre Safety Advisory Group, six events on private land or highways. These include the Legend Fires Closed Road Rally, Wonderland at Valiant's Farm and Garstang Ice Cream Festival.

#### **Marine Fest**

- 3.3** The Council, in partnership with local Fleetwood community groups, delivered an open air event called Marine Fest in the Marine Gardens on Sunday 11 August. It consisted of a live music programme, craft activities, community stalls, a caricature artist, free arts materials and circus skills workshops. Although attendances suffered due to inclement weather it was really enjoyed by those who attended.

#### **Westview Summer Arts, Fleetwood**

- 3.4** We worked closely over the summer with Westview Community Association and local artists to provide a very successful community arts project for local children. This culminated in the installation of a wildlife collage at the community centre. 67 children's places were taken up over the four sessions and the feedback from local families, volunteers and artists was fantastic.

#### **Just Reminiscing**

- 3.5** Regular sessions of Just Reminiscing are now taking place at Garstang Library and Fleetwood Market. A taster session took place at a Progress Lifeline (Independent Living) event at Barton Grange Garden Centre over the August bank holiday. We engaged with about 30 local people who really enjoyed the artefacts and scrapbooks. Further outreach will be taking place across Regenda's Independent Living Schemes and local Dementia Cafés over the next few months.

#### **4. Tourism and visitor services**

##### **Marsh Mill**

- 4.1** Marsh Mill is currently open at the weekends until the end of October 2019 and again for the evening of the Christmas lights switch-on in November. The Mill opened as part of the National Heritage Open Days and Wyre's Heritage Open Day programme on 21 and 22 September when there were tours and a series of thematic performances from the Windmill Players in full historic costume. The final main event of the year will be the 225th Birthday Party Event on 19 and 20 October 2019 which will welcome live performances from Scold's Bridle and a pop-up museum hosted by Fleetwood Museum. Planning is already underway with the Friends of Marsh Mill for the 2020 season.

#### **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.