

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel Update – April 2019

1. Community / Voluntary Sector - Grants and Community Development, Woodlands, Parks and Open Spaces, Arts, Heritage and Special Events.

Community / Voluntary Sector

Grants – Core Organisation review was completed on the 19th January and attended by all 10 organisations. All 10 organisations have had grants approved totalling £98,500.

A total of 13 organisations applied for this round of themed grants. The Grants Committee agreed to move the under spends from Small Grants to cover Health and Wellbeing grants. With the exception of one organisation, all Core and Devolved payments have been allocated.

One off Grants – OCPC have agreed £300k for 2019/20 to support not for profit Corby voluntary and community organisations. The criteria and protocols approved by Grants Committee and deadline for applications is 29th March. A Grants Panel will review applications and award grants before end of April.

Devolved Community Centres – Beanfield Community Centre has been subject to investigation works looking into potential subsidence. The findings have reported differential movement between the new and old parts of the building causing internal cracking. During the investigation works the front part of the building has been isolated to ensure public safety. Estimate for works is £20k. Quotations are now being sought before reporting further.

Full Council has approved capital funds of £60k for three community centres for the repairs required to the heating systems. Work is planned to be completed over the next six months.

Big Local Skateboard Parks - CBC, Northamptonshire Sports, Big Lottery and Groundwork are looking at a Wren bid to develop two skate parks in Kingswood and Hazelwood. Estimated cost is £200k.

Core Theatre - The NAMT Board have appointed Jo Gordon as the new Chief Executive covering The Core and Royal & Derngate Theatres.

Armed Forces Covenant - The new concession charges for Armed forces personnel, veterans that have left the forces within five years and families commenced on the 2nd January. OCPC approval was provided to support up to £12k for the county coordinator post. The post has recently been advertised as the previous holder has taken up a similar position supporting Cambridgeshire.

Woodlands, Parks and Open Spaces

Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods – The coppicing season has reached its target for the countryside stewardship grant thanks to the support of the volunteers and local business engagement. The team are ready to start the wood collection process from all coppicing works and will be taken to the drying bays ready for splitting and seasoning.

East Carlton Countryside Park – 2019 events planned; Easter Sunday funday, Walking Festival, Corby and District Lions Funday, Outdoor movie experiences, Transport gala, Northants and Leics Sci-Fi Day, 5 mile run, a cycle race and Halloween. A cafe loyalty hot drinks card for the regulars has now been introduced.

2019/20 Capital spend is being progressed to cover health and safety and improve the integrity of the building. Four areas have been identified for investment including roof repairs, window replacements, pavement works and café improvements. Priority 2 tree works have been ensuring the Tree Survey recommendations have been met.

Kingswood Local Nature Reserve - Priority 2 tree works have been completed ensuring the Tree Survey recommendations have been met. Despite consultation with Friends of Group and Wildlife Trust, some adverse reactions have been received that are being addressed.

Boating Lake The Angling Trust has awarded £3k for necessary improvement works including bank reinstatement, repairs to fishing platforms, new CCTV cameras and a life ring. All works will be completed by the end of March.

Play Areas - Vandalism has been less this financial year. Progress is now being made on procuring Glastonbury and Lyvden play areas. A Wren bid of £60k has been submitted for Stephenson Way Play Area with the £8k CBC funding as leverage. £35k S106 is also now due to replace Oundle Road play area.

Byelaws – The Byelaws are to be updated once approved by the Secretary of State. OCPC approved the amendment to the draft byelaws that will allow remote controlled aircraft to be flown from or over Council land as long as a permit from the Council and required public liability insurance are in place. Proposed that they will only be allowed at East Carlton Countryside Park, Abington Road Recreation Ground, West Glebe Park, Corby Boating Lake and Weldon Woodland Park.

S106 Greatline Development - Cycle Ways and Paths (Tesco's S106) £800k Scheme now being worked on with a possible partnership with NCC Highways. A report will be presented to OCPC on the options..

Coronation Park – the new Shared Service Ground Maintenance Team are undertaking a major makeover of the Park. This is supported by Friends of Group.

Arts & Heritage

Heritage Lottery Fund – Have announced a new £1 Billion five year lottery programme aimed at better community support and sustainability of projects. Corby has been chosen as one of twelve priority areas across England. The HLF are planning a hosting event launching this on the 20th March at Rockingham Village Hall.

2019 Heritage Centre Exhibitions –

- WW1 exhibition ending in March 2019
- Weaving exhibition from March – June 2019
- Newton Rebels Exhibition from June – Sept 19
- Old Corby Families Exhibition from Sept – Jan 2020.

2. Well-Being Services - Sports Facilities/Healthier Lifestyles/Sports & Play Development

Shape Dance - The end of this year sees the start of the 50th anniversary of Shape Dance. A programme of celebration is already being planned to include a reunion of some of the thousands of dancers who have been through the scheme since it started with a mass dance planned in September which will be filmed at East Carlton Park and shown as part of the annual show in the Core Theatre in December.

30 places booked for dancers to attend the Louie Spence Master class in Leicester in September which will give dancers the opportunity to learn from Louie and other professional Choreographers currently working in the industry, routines learnt at this event will also be showcased at the end of the year. Funding opportunities are currently being researched to help fund a programme of celebration for 2019/20.

West Glebe Sports Pavilion - the **Cyclecross Event** was successfully held at the park in January with approximately 400 attending. Rockingham Forest Wheelers now meet weekly on the park to train.

Park Improvements – a WREN bid for funding has been approved for £35k and will see improvements at West Glebe Park. Orders have been placed for a new picnic area, table tennis table and outdoor fitness equipment. It is hoped that the work will commence in April 2019.

Race for Life – OPEN TO ALL - for the very first time Race for Life is opening its events to everyone. Historically these events have been aimed at women only; however 2019 will see the event open to

men, women and children for the first time ever. The 5K and 10k races are being held at West Glebe Park on Sunday 19 May 2019. Last year over 1200 entrants participated and it is hoped that this figure will increase dramatically as a result of the event being open to all.

Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre LED Lighting - the Hazelwood Short Mat Bowls Club have been successful in gaining match funding of £1,300 through the Community Chest Fund which has enabled all of the lights in the main hall to be changed to LED.

British Cycling have approached the CBC to discuss potential closed cycling circuits or facilities in Corby as keen for Northants to benefit from their 'Places to Ride £15million Programme'. The fund is until 5 Jan 2021 offering Small-Grants up to £50k for improvement of existing facilities and large scale grants up to £500k with a 50:50 partnership contribution. Proposals could be explored possibly linked in with S106 funding and housing developers.

Healthier Lifestyles:

Workplace Health – a task and finish subgroup from the health and well-being board has been set up to specifically review Healthy Workplaces. The group has representation from throughout Northamptonshire with a view to developing an improvement tool for SME businesses through self-assessment. Draft standards are currently being reviewed.

Healthier Lifestyles Programme – working with NHFT children's weight management team Corby health and fitness staff will be assisting by delivering a physical activity session to approximately 30 children in Corby Primary Academy during February. It is hoped that this will be followed up by supporting the same initiative at St Patrick's.

Homestart – working in partnership with Homestart, Corby health and fitness team is assisting in the delivery of a new program that started in February. "Incredible Families" Each 10 week program will be an opportunity for the whole family to attend classes aimed at increasing levels of activity and to try new activities; alongside exploring and understanding healthy lifestyle choices. (Note: Grants Committee have increased Homestart's grant from £4.7k to £9.2k pa for five years which is going to help with the above projects).

Corby Health Plan - the health plan for Corby is currently being reviewed and updated to ensure alignment with the county well-being strategy and evidence-based need. It is imperative that commitment is received from organisations and the voluntary sector to report on outcomes to identify required impact. The forum have asked for suggestions/proposals on projects and initiatives which will achieve such impact and be eligible within the £100k public health funding that Corby is receiving. A subgroup is being formed to review these proposals and approve any applications. CBC is required to be the accountable body.

Walk Leader Training - 12 volunteers have so far signed up to attend the walk for Health Walk Leader training which is being held at West Glebe on Wednesday, 20 March 2019 from 9 AM-3 PM. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Liz Hudson 204217.

Cardiac Rehab Phase 4 and Activity on Referral continue to operate at both Pool and Lodge Park Sports Centre allowing people with heart conditions or other health conditions to receive specialised guidance and programmes/classes to improve their health and wellbeing. Stronger links with Corby Physiotherapy services at the diagnostic centre have been developed, with their staff visiting to see what services are on offer and Council instructors have attended a full day with their patients. This is to build on the strong partnership and to improve the referral pathway for patients.

Corby East Midlands International

Corby Steel Diving Club held the second internal open competition in December for participants on the Talent Identification pathway and Council diving lessons and was very successful. Over 200 spectators attended and were very complimentary on how this was delivered jointly by the Council and club committee. The event was such a success the club will now be holding 2 competitions per year.

Galas - The 2020 Gala requests have now been received and a decision on the supported events will be agreed in February with Cllr McGhee Lead Member Community. Five days could not be

accommodated. Corby Amateur Swimming Club has seen its top swimmers accepted onto the Swim England Great Britain competitive pathway. The next full weekend Gala will see Corby host an open level 3 competition.

2019/20 Building Improvements - Preparation is underway well for the planned £750k capital works that will include refurbishment of the air handling units, filter media replacement, essential UV works, Entry Gate System and potential LED light replacements.

The Pool will be 10 years old on 24th July 2019 and anniversary ideas are currently being explored with an event likely to be planned for the 27th of July 2019 celebrating the past ten years.

Swimming Instruction - The aquatic team are currently looking to work with Swim England around volunteers aged 14-16yrs to qualify them as level 1 swimming instructors. Corby swimming club elite squad have the opportunity to become qualified while supporting the learn to swim program. Facility staff have volunteered their time to deliver disability swimming sessions each month and this valuable community session has been recognised and awarded the Corby Spirit community award.

Sport and Play Development

Coaching Programme has grown with the breakfast club numbers rising to on average 16 each session. This term Cheerleading, Football, Dodgeball, Mini Olympics, Bop-til-u-drop and Netball sessions are being delivered as after school clubs.

Walking Football has continued to build its numbers and a second weekly session started in the evening time at Lodge Park Astroturf to capture those people that work and cannot attend the daytime session.

SPLAT - February Half term's scheme will run for the full week and the theme is 'Farm to Fork' with activities planned such as 'Plant your own veg', Animal Bowling and a Baking Competition.

Table Tennis England - CBC has awarded £2,986 to fund 2 outdoor tables at East Carlton Park and provide table tennis bats and balls working in partnership with the town's Table Tennis clubs and PING!. A programme of delivery using the outdoor tables by the clubs to engage the community will follow in the summer months. It is then hoped to look at other sites around the Borough.

First Aid courses - Two in-house endorsed emergency first aid courses have been delivered. A Paediatric First Aid course will be held in March/April 2019.

Lodge Park Sports Centre

Boiler / Plant room Work – the tender specification document is being drawn up to replace the boilers at Lodge Park and associated plant room works including water heaters. The work to refurbish the lift has been ordered as the existing is beyond economical repair.

Astro turf refurbishment – Specification is being developed to support the tender documentation. The astro turf will be out of action for around 6 – 8 weeks during the quieter summer period.

Burghley Drive Pavilion – Quotations for roof and wall repairs have now been received and work is planned to be completed before the end of March.

Football Pitches the mild weather and dry conditions have meant that no games have had to be called off. The arrangements with the new shared grounds maintenance service is proving positive such as verti-drain the pitches which will aid the drainage and growth of grass.

Golf Course - The golf course has performed above its projected target for the last 3 months, with more rounds played than previous years. This is due to the weather and the improved quality and condition of the course.

The timescale for tendering the management contract have been put back to the end of July for a new contractor to be in place. A bidders day has been arranged for all interested parties on the 4th April and is receiving a lot of interest.

The volunteers have excelled over the winter, repairing 1st tee steps, clearing branches, rubbish and bushes from the course and have repaired all the ball washers on the course with new brushes so every hole on the course now has a fully working washer. The volunteers were also nominated for the England Golf national awards but unfortunately not shortlisted for the main event.

A new price structure has been created which will go live on 1st April for all greens fees at the golf course, which has been developed with England Golf and brings the course in line with other courses in the area. The annual and direct debit season tickets price will not be increased.

Catering - In December the catering at the golf course was taken back in house as a result of an unsuccessful tender process, with the staff from First Catering Ltd being TUPE to the council. This transition has gone smoothly, with little effect to customers and the service provided.

3. General

Safeguarding

The Council Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy has been updated to include sections on Spirit Possession or Witchcraft, Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage. The policy is available on the intranet. 2 x Safeguarding courses especially tailored to CBC Housing staff were delivered in November and January. The courses were well received and feedback was positive.

Corby Visitors Forum (CVF) has 34 subscribers to the Love Corby website www.lovecorby.co.uk which has decreased slightly but the support from the current subscribers is still good. Mandy Young is now Chairperson. A strategic meeting is planned to facilitate a strategic/marketing plan. The Council is not providing £5,000 supporting in the next financial year, so this meeting will also be used to find funding opportunities available to ensure the continuation of Corby Visitor Forum from 2020.

10 new sponsored lamp post banners were installed on Westcott Way in January and will be in place until July 2020. Promotion of Love Corby via Social media; facebook, twitter and instagram remains good. Promotion via competitions and leaflets is also taking place; Council Tax leaflet and an Easter Competition.

The Love Corby videos project will be completed by June 2019 and will further promote Love Corby (Corby) to residents and visitors to the Borough. The CVF have agreed to take up bronze membership of Northamptonshire Britain's Best Surprise campaign and is also feeding into the Northamptonshire Destination Management Plan.

Corby Lottery On Saturday 9th February a Corby Lottery bolt on Valentines Prize Draw of 3 x £50.00 restaurant vouchers took place. The promotion of this prize draw increased those playing the lottery by 20 supporters. A £2,000 lottery win happened on the 2nd March and this has been used to promote tickets sales.