

Report to:

**Council**

Agenda  
Item

10(b)(vi)

Meeting Date: 28 April 2015

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Culture, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Anne Quilter**

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### **Old Fire Station**

Work on the opening programme of the Old Fire Station is progressing well. There are now 48 events booked in as part of the opening programme, with another 18 awaiting confirmation and a further 22 public events and seven art exhibitions planned.

The Pop Up Exhibition walls have arrived which will offer free exhibiting space to local artists. The roll out dance floor has also arrived and a programme of dance events, workshops and classes is currently being developed, starting with 'Salsa Social' taking place on the opening weekend.

The website for the Old Fire Station is now live and gaining a fantastic response. The Twitter page has 563 followers, which includes many media and arts contacts, and the Facebook page has 1592 likes.

The venue is starting to gain attention from national agents and at the time of writing we have eight agents who want to work with us.

### **Tourism marketing/action plan**

The new Discover Carlisle website is now up and running, with over 2000 visitor sessions rising to 3000 over the Easter break, 79% of the visitors to the website are new visitors. These are encouraging numbers for the new website which has the potential to continue growing.

The 'See & Do' section of the website is now our preferred approach to promoting events in Carlisle. This section provides a visual stunning presentation of the varied programme of events across the district.

## **Sports Development**

The Lawn Tennis Association have granted Carlisle City Council £5K to deliver a tennis development plan. The aim of the plan is to increase tennis participation at Bitts Park and surrounding tennis sites. We are also continuing to deliver our disability tennis plan and have been working with amputee patients at the Cumberland Infirmary to deliver tennis sessions to them.

We delivered a visual impairment tennis day at Bitts Park airdome. This was for local people with visual impairment to come and try tennis. We organised for experienced visual impairment coaches from Newcastle to attend on the day and the whole day was a success with players attending from Cumbria, Newcastle and Scotland.

The skyride cycle rides in partnership with British Cycling have started and take place every Sunday at various locations in the Carlisle area. All rides are free and details can be found at [www.carlisle.gov.uk/cycling](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk/cycling)

We have been developing plans for the new sports facility at Harraby. This will include a full size 3G pitch, three smaller football pens, a multi use games area and an improved sports hall. We have been engaging with local sports clubs and groups to ensure the site will be used to its full potential to support local sports clubs in the Carlisle area.

We have developed a Badminton plan in partnership with Badminton England to increase participation in Badminton in Carlisle and have been granted £1162 to support the plan.

## **TULLIE HOUSE TRUST**

### **Young People Programme**

Tullie House Trust has over the past year developed a programme of activity encouraging young people to use the museum. With the support of the City Council and Arts Council funding they have worked closely with a number of organisations such as the Living Well

Trust, Barnardos, Carlisle Youth Zone and the British Museum. Collaborative working has proved beneficial as it allows us to share resources, experience, and skills.

## **Youth Groups**

With Nacro ( a national charity working with disadvantaged young people, juvenile offenders, and those at risk of offending) our work has provided practical learning for young people, giving them the skills and opportunities they need in order to seek employment or re-enter the education system.

Through partnership working Tullie House Trust have developed their education programme to achieve social outcomes including working with the Barnardos teenage parents group on communication projects to help build self esteem and offering skills training.

The programme provides an inspiring programme of activity for Tullie House's Young Persons Group (Yak Yak) which engages the group with the Museum's exhibition and education activities. The Yak Yaks have undertaken a number of different activities, ranging from a visit to London to meet with other museum youth groups, heritage skills days with the North of England Civic Trust (NECT) such as stone carving and blacksmithing, and researching, designing and producing a digital map and filming in locations across the cultural quarter.

Abstract youth magazine secured funding from Carlisle City Council, and Cumbria County Council, and have been able to take their publication online to reach a wider audience. The group have been able to re-form and start writing articles and reviews, sharing photographs and illustrations, and give a new young person's perspective museums and galleries in Cumbria. The editorial team meet once a week at Tullie House.

Youth project, The Shed, has been an experimental space at Tullie House, and on a limited budget temporary community based exhibitions have been created. There have been four young people exhibitions in The Shed, all of which have offered an opportunity for the young people to demonstrate their talent or skills which may otherwise have gone unnoticed.