

Meeting Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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### **Old Fire Station**

The Old Fire Station pilot programme has now finished with a very positive response from performers, participants and audiences. Planning permission has now been granted for the development and the contractor is undertaking investigatory and enabling works ahead of construction. The proposed Business and Operating Plan for the venue post redevelopment has been considered by the City Council's Executive and referred to both the Community and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panels. Informal discussions have been opened to develop opening programme content for 2015.

### **WW1 Writing Project**

Work is underway with a local writer to create a piece of drama around WW1. The project will also involve a producer who was consultant producer at Theatre by the Lake and has worked with the BBC. The drama piece will be called The Last Post and will link the Home front with the War front through the telegram service. The piece will be based upon real letters home from Carlisle soldiers serving in the First World War. The aim is to perform the piece September 2015 in the Old Fire Station. Through this project a new Carlisle Theatre group will be established, with a view to regular works at the Old Fire Station.

### **Pageant**

Carlisle City Council has linked up once again with Chester for the Midsummer Watch, with City Council representatives taking part in the Chester event and the Chester team is supporting us with the Carlisle Pageant. During the Carlisle Pageant, puppets will once again form a parade and this year we have linked up with Lakeside casting agency, who have written and will perform a historical piece of drama. This years Pageant will take place on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The programme will include lots of family friendly fun, including face painting and street entertainers. A community parade including giant puppets depicting key historical characters from the Tudor period, including Henry VIII and Mary Queen of Scots, will parade from the Civic Centre at 2pm making its way to the city centre and the Old Town Hall via Scotch Street.

## **Carlisle Music City**

Carlisle Music City had a successful third year. The addition of a bar and catering certainly made a difference and kept people in the city centre for longer. Both weekends were well received by the performers and the audience. Turn out from the public was the highest yet for Music City and the event is starting to feel well established.

## **Sports Development**

Carlisle City Council is organising a Festival of Sport on the 20<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate the Commonwealth Games. This will involve local sports clubs and organisations. The programme will provide taster sessions including American football, tennis, hockey, rowing, canoeing, cycling, golf, rounders, rugby and squash along with activities for the family. Newlands Adventure Centre will be there, fun runs organised by Carlisle Parkrun, Watchtree Wheelers and guided Skyrides. Childrens entertainment, a pedal power scalextric, a fairground, food and refreshments will also be on offer on the day.

Carlisle's summer of sport also includes the Patriot Games, a new workplace team event that we are supporting with CLL, CN events and The Cumbrian SPAA Foundation.

Tennis, athletics and cycling programmes continue to be a success. The Skyride project through British Cycling is in full flow with rides being delivered every Sunday for a range of groups from families to adults wanting to enjoy Carlisle and the surrounding area by bicycle. To book on a Skyride visit [www.goskyride.com/carlisle](http://www.goskyride.com/carlisle)

Carlisle City Council Officers are also working with Watchtree Wheelers, British Cycling and Border City Wheelers cycling club to develop a new cycling facility at Watchtree nature reserve. Around £90k has been raised through sponsorship and funding applications to resurface the current tracks at the disabled cycling centre. The successful delivery of a 1k cycling circuit is a key part of our sports facility strategy.

Since the last meeting of Council we have supported a further 6 local athletes with funding and free facility use as part of our talented athlete scheme with Active Cumbria and Carlisle Leisure.

The 2014 Cumbria School Games took place yesterday in Carlisle. 650 school children from across the county arrived in Carlisle to represent their district teams in Tennis, Hockey, Netball, Golf, Table Tennis, Football, Table Cricket, Boccia and Orienteering.

Team Carlisle was crowned 2014 Cumbria School Games champions, with Team Furness coming a close second and Team Eden taking third place. The Mayor, Cllr Steven Bowditch, was asked to receive the special Cumbria School Games Olympic Torch Trophy on behalf of Team Carlisle. The day was a great success.

## **Old Town Hall Phase 2**

Phase two of the Old Town Hall project remains on track for implementation early in the New Year. The scheme is based on the outcomes of the Member Working Group and the Carlisle Story brand in order to provide a gateway to the Historic and Cultural Quarter and a greater ambassador role across Tourism and promoting what Carlisle has to offer.

The proposals include a new entrance to facilitate disabled access; new exhibition area which will be flexible and interactive; new merchandise which has a Carlisle and Cumbria

emphasis and new displays. A Planning Application and an application for Listed Building Consent has been submitted. The plans will be on display prior to the Council Meeting.

The work to the Assembly Room will enable it to be used for a variety of uses, for instance, Civic functions, exhibitions and meetings.

### **Tullie House**

On 17<sup>th</sup> June Tullie House Museum Trust won the prestigious award for Cumbria Tourism Large Visitor Attraction of the year. The Cumbria Tourism Awards celebrate the best Cumbria has to offer and are now in their 12th year. Winning businesses have to demonstrate excellence and innovation throughout their business, including their product, welcome, service, marketing and sustainable practices.

Tullie House will now go on to represent the county at the Visit England Awards for Excellence in 2015.

TripAdvisor has awarded Tullie House Museum Trust with a 2014 Certificate of Excellence. This prestigious award recognises businesses that constantly earn top ratings from TripAdvisor's travellers.

Tullie House Museum Trust is among the top 20 museums nationally to be long listed for the Telegraph Family Friendly Museum Award 2014, which gives visitors the chance to say which museum, gallery or historic home in Britain gives the warmest welcome to families.

The shortlisted museums are mystery shopped by families, using the Kids in Museums Manifesto as a guide to their family friendliness. The winner will be announced in July.

### **Events and Exhibitions**

Tullie House has held a variety of events and exhibitions over the last couple of months. The Mechanical Circus (15<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> June) exhibition presented a combination of scientific tricks, toys and experiments in a fairground atmosphere and was very popular particularly with schools.

Community and Youth activities included Treasures of Cumbria project enabling the people of Cumbria to record and share their heritage and history; 'Carlisle's Cultural Quarter' Digital Map project led by the Yak Yak youth group and May bank holiday events linked to Local and Community History Month.