

Meeting Date: 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Culture, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Stephen Higgs**

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## **DISCOVER CARLISLE**

### **Christmas Get Together**

Carlisle's Festive Get Together was held on the weekend before Christmas in the city centre. The event included a packed programme of live entertainment, local craft stalls and festive food and drink. The Makers March, a collection of artisans and craft people based along the Scottish Borders, Cumbria, North Pennines and Northumberland, was in attendance with stalls each day. Local company The Rolling Pub Co. provided a bar in the marquee.

### **A New Promotional Video**

Discover Carlisle has produced a new promotional video encouraging people to use their local high streets. Focussing on Brampton, the video features three fantastic independent shops.

## **CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE**

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life is currently open at weekends until mid- February reflecting the opening hours of Carlisle Castle. November saw a return to schools visiting the Museum for educational sessions. Our monthly Tuesday Talks Programme restarted in September with average attendances and our veterans' lunches are back on the Museum programme. We are undertaking a period of building maintenance and collections care in both December and January.

## **TULLIE HOUSE**

Tullie House has had a busy six weeks in terms of visitor numbers, driven by the opening of 'Paddington: The Story of A Bear', a British Library Touring Exhibition. Over 1,000 people visited the exhibition in its opening week, the busiest since 2019's Turner/Rembrandt opening. We have been working with Cllr David Morton and the Carlisle Society for the Blind to explore how we can make the museum more accessible

for adults with visual impairments and welcomed the group to a private tour of the Paddington exhibition. The exhibition will be on display until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

The Thriving Communities Project delivered in partnership with Carlisle City Council, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Prism Arts, Susie Tate Projects and Carlisle Healthcare continues to go from strength to strength. We are delighted to have received additional funding from the Cumbria Community Foundation to support this programme and increase the number of Inside Out programmes for 2022.

Project Tullie, the Museum's ambitious capital investment programme, continues still with pace. The Museum is expecting to hear soon the outcome of a Stage 1 application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Museum Trust has already secured £2m from the UK Government and a further £900k from the Town Deal Fund.

## **LEISURE**

### **Sands Centre Redevelopment**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 marks week **59/98** of the contract works. Both pools have successfully passed the water leak tests and the roof is now complete. The existing events and sports hall will be shut down for eight weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> January to allow works to take place. The next phase will see the external cladding being installed and the start of the internal fit out of the new build. Despite staffing and materials shortages, the works are only one week behind schedule.

### **Stony Holme Golf Course**

The operator of Stony Holme Golf course has had its best year since taking over the operation with over 17,500 rounds played in 2021 (>20% improvement on last year).

### **Hammond's Pond Public Art**

City Council staff have been working to support the Friends of Hammond's Pond as they make improvements to the park, utilising a generous donation from a local resident. The first project will be to install two life-size stainless-steel sculptures of mute swans taking flight; an artist from North Lancashire has been commissioned to produce the works and the City Council will manage their installation into the pond and their subsequent maintenance.

## **HADRIAN'S WALL 1900<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

A series of events to mark the Anniversary will run from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December – coordinated through the Hadrian's Wall Partnership. Work has commenced on City of Lights 2022 which will be themed around Roman occupation. City Council Officers are working on a number of other themed events.

## **HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Celebrations will cover four days, 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022, with a Commonwealth-wide Beacons event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and The Big Lunch on 5<sup>th</sup> June.