

Report to:

Council

Agenda
Item

11(b)(vi)

Meeting Date: 5 March 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Culture, Health, Leisure & Young People Portfolio Holder's Report**

Councillor Anne Quilter

Carlisle Midsummer Pageant

A £10,000 grant from the Art Council has been secured to deliver the Carlisle Midsummer Pageant. The event, to be held in August, will be linked to the Proclamation of the City and will include a procession of giant puppets depicting key local historical events and characters.

The Council has linked up with Chester Midsummer Watch who has been developing an historical parade for the last 21 years. Puppets from Chester will participate in our Pageant and plans are being made to take a selection of Carlisle's puppets to Chester.

A number of workshops will be held over a 6 day period and will be delivered by artists from the Chester Midsummer Watch. Schools and community groups will take part in the workshops to produce a range of puppets.

Carlisle Music City

Planning continues for this successful event which will take place between 25 May and 2 June. Carlisle City Council has pledged £5000 to the event and a further £2000 has been secured from Riverside Housing Association.

The event includes a main stage, booked for the town centre for Bank Holiday Monday, 27 May, as has the bandstand for throughout the week. New partners who are taking part include Carlisle Station and The Lanes Shopping Centre.

Subway Development

The redesign of the subways, linking the City Centre with Bitts Park and the Sands and Trinity underpass, has really started to take shape. Carlisle City Council is working in Partnership with students at the University of Cumbria to produce the artwork for the subways. This will then be installed by the young people. Prior to this there will be a 'clean up'. It is hoped that this can be achieved through young volunteer participation. This contributes to the overall 'Pride in Your City' theme and will demonstrate how young people are positively contributing to make their community a better place.

Sports Development

A wide range of activity has taken place to further develop sporting activity in Carlisle and includes:

- The organisation of two events with University of Cumbria, involving their third Year PE/Sports Development Students. One group are organising a dualathlon at Morton Leisure Centre. The second group are organising a volunteer conference at the University. The Council's Sports Development Officer will mentor both groups.
- Partnership working and joint funding of a weekly 'Parkrun' programme at Chances Park. The inaugural event on Saturday, 19 January attracted 112 runners. Runners have the opportunity to meet afterwards for a coffee in the community centre, increasing its sustainability.
- The new Carlisle City Council Sports Volunteering scheme is ready to launch. Booklets describing the scheme are now complete. The scheme is being run in partnership with the Sport and Physical Activity Alliance Foundation (SPAAF) and Streetgames, a national organisation which funds volunteering opportunities for young people, targeting areas of deprivation and need.

Carlisle Leisure Limited

A busy period for Arts and Events with 66 shows over the 3 month period. Notable events included the first visit of the West End production of Calendar Girls with over 8,000 customers attending. Hotels and restaurants in the city reported many being fully booked during that week.

Trinity

The Amateur Swimming Association National Plan for Teaching Swimming programme continues to grow with swimming lessons for up to 480 children from non-swimmer to advanced stroke development. Provision of swimming lessons for children with additional needs including learning difficulties and autism is fully subscribed. These sessions no longer depend on external funding and are now self-sustainable.

Tourism Support

The new 2013 'Discover Carlisle Holiday Guide' is now finalised together with the "Places to Visit" leaflet for 2013 with both being distributed through normal channels over a wide area.

Plans are now been formulated for a local one day conference on Tourism in late April in conjunction with the members of the Carlisle Tourism Partnership. It is envisaged that Key note speakers will include representatives of Visit England, Cumbria Tourism, Britain's Heritage Cities as well as information on the increasing availability of high bandwidth broadband and the opportunities this can offer local tourism businesses.

We are working with Cumbria Tourism on a number of Press trips which has already include a Belgium based travel writer who visited Carlisle over two days in mid February. His visit will result in a family orientated Carlisle and Hadrian's Wall piece for 'Around Brussels', 'BThere' (In-flight mag) and Easyjet (in-flight mag). Future visits we are trying to accommodate include a Newsquest journalist (West Midlands based) and a 20 strong group of Indian travel agents.

Old Town Hall and Carlisle TIC

Work continues on the repair and restoration project for the Old Town Hall with Cubby Construction continuing to work to a contract completion date in June 2013.

All the City Council tenants on the ground floor remain open for business with liaison being maintained with them by the contractor on the day to day building works.

The TIC, having temporarily relocated to the nearby Cathedral Lodge on Castle Street, is successfully maintaining a full service for both visitors and residents alike, with the same telephone number in use. Upon returning to the Old Town Hall the TIC will benefit from redecoration, new lighting, new carpeting and better facilities for disabled users, all of which are included in the current project works..

Further to the Overview & Scrutiny Task Group Report on the TIC, a Project Working Group has also now been formed to develop further improvements to the Assembly Rooms and the TIC. This second phase improvement project will look at improved access to the first floor and ensuring full modernisation of the services provided within the TIC, maximising the use of ever improving technology and information dissemination, as well as maximising opportunities to showcase local quality products.

Tullie House

Over the winter months Tullie House has held a variety of events and exhibitions including an exhibition, C-Art showcasing local artists work; Tek Hod, which was a solo exhibition involving wrestling demonstrations and competitions; and the traditional Burns Night Dinner.

In April Tullie House will be introducing a new schools and learning programme funded by the Arts Council. It supports family learning activities, events and holiday workshops in conjunction with the national museums.

Finally I would like to congratulate Tullie House on having won the Cumberland News 2012 award for Tourism and Hospitality.