

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

COUNCILLOR ALLAN HOLLIDAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER

KEITH PARKER - LEAD OFFICER

1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

a) Huntsman/Rhodia (Environmental) Local Liaison Committee

The Huntsman/Rhodia (Environmental) Local Liaison Committee is the successor of what was the originally the Marchon Local Liaison Committee set up in the 1970's. Over the years the committee has undoubtedly served a most useful purpose in keeping the Council and the public informed of activities on the Marchon site. It provided good opportunity for dialogue between the council and the companies involved. Unfortunately activities on the site have been significantly reduced and are now at a level which do not justify the existence of a formal liaison committee. I would therefore advise that the next meeting of the committee which is to be held in 2 days time (26 January) will probably be the final one.

LEISURE FACILITIES

a) Bowls Centre/Synthetic Pitch

One of our members David Forster who is only fifteen years old 15 who has been assisted to develop his indoor bowling skills through the junior development programme organised by Centre manager, Alan Burns, in partnership with The Cumbrian Bowling development officer, has won the Cumbria area final of the under 25 age group and will now represent Cumbria in the regional finals at Nottingham in March where he will compete against the very best bowlers in the country.

It is tremendous to recognise that One of our employees at the Bowls Centre, Linda Rose, has for the first time been selected to represent the full England team in an International series against teams from Scotland, Ireland and Wales at South Shields on the 4th, 5th and 6th April.

With the ladies winning the semi final of the Yhetton trophy, (North of England Competition) on the last end at Copeland on the 5th January, and two mens teams through to the Cumbria area semi finals of the National rinks competition and with the Bowls Centre hosting more games than ever before (7571 plays Sept to Dec in 2005 compared to 7446 in the same period in

2004), the partnership between the West Cumbrian Bowling Association (who represent the majority of users) and the Council, goes from strength to strength.

b) Copeland Pool

A two-day external Quest visit was completed in December and for the second time an improvement was recognised in the score of 68 (previous score 65). Key strengths recognised by the assessor were facilities operations, customer relations and programming. The full report is due later this month but the service is pleased to see that this prestigious quality award has recognised the advances the manager and staff have made in improving the facility for the people who go swimming.

Wayne Rudd, one of our duty managers has passed a first aid trainer course. This means the pool will be able to make a direct contribution to raising educational standards in the area through the provision of first aid courses to the public, new and existing.

c) Pow Sports

On Saturday 26th November The Deputy Mayor opened the new sports pitch for community use at Whitehaven Amateur football club.

Thanks to the Council's support, not least from Officers and an initial injection of funding of £5,000, the club built a £760,000 community facility and employed a development officer to market and manage it over the next three years. Grant aid came from amongst others Sport England, West Lakes Renaissance (WLR), the County Council and South Whitehaven Partnership along with support from the Football Association.

The first phase of a three stage project there is now a vision to improved playing facilities for the Miners football and Bowling sections, redevelop the professional rugby league club, and relocate the Councils Leisure facilities in the Pow Beck area of Whitehaven. The Head of Leisure and Environmental Services has agreed with WLR to act as client for a more detailed feasibility of the potential relocation with consultants to be appointed shortly.

THE BEACON

a) Harbour Gallery

The current exhibition in the Harbour Gallery "Titanic – Honour and Glory" ended on 7th January and has been visited by 16,240 locals and tourists. Admission to the Harbour Gallery is free, encourages repeat visits to the Museum and supports CBC's aim to be socially inclusive.

b) Education Services.

231 children were taught by Beacon staff during November and 128 in December. This has been due to the creation of new school sessions, improvements in existing services and targeted marketing, and support CBC objectives to maximise educational achievement and learning. The Beacon is working closely with CLEO – Cumbria Lancashire Education Online - to develop video conferencing sessions to reach all schools but especially those in rural/isolated areas.

c) Lifelong Learning.

6 activity workshops took place during December and were attended by participants from age 2 upwards. Due to popular demand, the Life Drawing classes for adults have been extended into January. On 17 December, the Young Archaeologists Club experienced an historic “Feast” with Collections Officer, Michelle Kelly.

ENFORCEMENT

a) Car Parking

It will be of interest for Council to note I have a report coming to Executive on 2 February which seeks agreement to extend our arrangement with St Bees Parish Council to provide free car parking at the Station Car Park for the coming year. The report will also include an offer by Seascale Parish Council to mirror the successful St Bees arrangements.

ARTS DEVELOPMENT

a) Rural Touring Scheme

Copeland's Rural Touring Scheme will be assisting several other touring schemes in the north of England to champion the role of ethnically diverse art in rural England. This is a three year partnership funded by Esmee Fairburn which will see up to three acts from across the world tour into local community spaces in each of the three years. The intention is to enrich peoples lives by developing an audience for ethnically diverse performing arts, such as Indian music or African dance. In addition it is hoped to raise the profile of performance venues in rural areas as alternatives to urban arts centres.

b) Parton Music Programme

The sessions in Parton Village Hall continue to be an unquestionable success. Monday night at the 11 to 19 year old sessions Artist mark Newport and local trainee David Roberts deliver a range of support to local rock and pop bands as part of the Westricity Programme. The sessions continue to attract a large number of young people but the discovery and support of local mentoring talent has given the programme a hard output with David Roberts now being paid and trained through the Sage, Gateshead.

c) The North Copeland Youth Partnership

will be advertising for a professional, strategic youth worker this month after a host of successful funding bids. Copeland Borough Council have worked alongside Copeland Homes, Connexions, Cumbria CC, Distington Club for Young People and Parton Youth and Community Development Programme for a year to secure this post.

d) Millom Youth Theatre

The programme continues to be delivered by the excellent Jakki Moore. Jakki is working in partnership with the countywide initiative Soundwave to explore how digital audio technologies can be combined with traditional performance.

e) South Whitehaven Youth Video

Lead Artist Russell Cherrington has been working with young people from the South Whitehaven area to explore the history and possible futures of the coastline and post-industrial landscape. The video produced will map and record the feelings and ideas the young people have about the site as it exists and their hopes and fears for the recent future.

The work will take place over 8 sessions and involve 10 to 15 young people depending on interest. The project will impart a range of technical and creative skills to young people involved as well as engaging them in the production of a professional and high-profile work of art.

f) National Trust Cleator Moor

This work continues the excellent partnership with the National Trust in Cleator Moor. Here we are working with St. Patricks, Montreal and Ennerdale School on a project led by artist Jane Dudman. This year long project will take young people to work in the Ennerdale Valley and along with our other partnership work go along to generate posts working between borough and trust.

g) English Heritage Millom

This partnership has developed into a longer, more sustainable project after it's initial success. We are working with twelve local amateur writers to explore the work of Norman Nicholson through words and images. The end product will be an artefact that promotes and advocates the areas cultural tourism offer.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny – Environmental Well Being Review of Public Toilets

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision made by:

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0110

Full Executive

Context: This report makes recommendations following a review of public toilets in Copeland over the past six months. Prior to consideration of this item Members congratulated the hard work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Environmental Well Being and Scrutiny Support Officer for the hard work involved in compiling this report.

Decision

That

- 1) **internal signage be erected encouraging members of the public to report faults to the Council;**
- 2) **a clear expectation of cleaning staff to report any faults they uncover to the appropriate person for action**
- 3) **that following the introduction of 1) and 2) above, that audit be asked to randomly ‘track’ 6 faults to establish how maintenance issues are being addressed and whether communication is effective**
- 4) **That Leisure and Environmental Services draw up written cleaning guidance for the cleaning of public toilets, outlining daily, weekly and monthly duties for cleaning staff**
- 5) **That vandal-resistant toilet roll holders be placed in all cubicles**
- 6) **That the pay locks in the St James Street toilets in Whitehaven be removed**
- 7) **That toilets are open for longer during specially organised events**
- 8) **That consideration is given to longer opening hours at St Bees, particularly during summer months, to accommodate walkers, cyclists and families**

Subject: Pow Sports

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0112

Context: This reports presents a proposals to support the Pow Sports Consortium (Whitehaven Amateurs Football Club) by bankrolling payments against invoices in order for the club to meet payment schedules.

During consideration of this item it was noted that cases such as these were considered on their own merit.

Decision

That subject to

- a) the Council making an agreement with the Club to ensure that on completion of the works a contractor's invoice is submitted to the authority;
- b) the Council will then seek confirmation, in writing, from the funder that the works have been carried out in accordance with the grant; and
- c) the funder being prepared to make reimbursement (to the club) prior to the Council making the payment on behalf of the club to the creditor
- d) financial support be approved to bankroll up to £136,000 as detailed in the report

Subject: Childrens Trust

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0113

Context: This report seeks approval for the Chief Executive and Leader to sign the Childrens Trust Partnership Protocol on behalf of the Council

Decision

That the Chief Executive and Leader be authorised to sign the Childrens Trust Partnership Protocol on behalf of the Council

Subject: Report To Inform Members of Copeland Borough Council's Involvement of High Hedge Inquiries Since June 2005

Date of Decision: 6 December 2005

Decision made by:

Decision Reference: EXE/05/0114

Full Executive

Context: This report informs Members of service demands with regards to High Hedge complaints since the implementation of the new legislation under the Anti Social Behaviour Act, in June 2005

Decision

That

- a) **the report be noted; and**
- b) **the investigating officer continues to monitor service and analyse costs against investigating officer's time.**