

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**COUNCILLOR ALLAN HOLLIDAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****KEITH PARKER - LEAD OFFICER****KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1. Environmental Health****Former Kangol Site at Frizington**

During demolition of the former *Kangol* factory in March 2005 the Council received complaints about burning of waste on the site which was giving rise to dense smoke. Officers of the Council's Environmental Health Section investigated the complaint and acquired evidence which the Environment Agency used in prosecution proceedings against the company concerned (Metaphase Demolition Ltd of Southport). At Whitehaven Magistrates Court, the company pleaded guilty to 2 offences under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 regarding the disposal of waste from the site and was fined a total of £22,500 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £7,000. The successful proceedings were a good example of partnership working between 2 regulatory bodies where there was an overlap of interest and enforcement responsibility.

Seizure of Noise Making Equipment

On 12 June 2006 officers of the Council's Environmental Health Section seized various items of equipment, including a karaoke machine and radio, from a house in Millom. The use of the equipment had been giving rise to persistent complaints to the Council and Police from local residents. The seizure was carried out with Police assistance and under the terms of a warrant granted to the Council by Magistrates in Barrow. This case was another example of effective partnership working –this time between the Council and the Police.

2. Open Spaces**Green Flag Awards**

Building on last year's success winning a green flag and a green heritage award for Egremont Castle and Grounds, a further three green spaces have been put forward this year, being St Nicholas Garden, Trinity Garden and Distington Crematorium and Walled Garden. All sites were visited on the 22 May and 9 June as part of their assessment. The results will be announced at the national awards ceremony to be held on the 3 August.

North West Excellence Awards

Colleagues will recall last year's successful achievement by our parks department in gaining two North West Excellence Awards, in competition against both the public and private sector. The awards were for "Best Customer Results 2005" and being "Group Finalist 2005"

This years entry for the 2006 Awards is based on the work of the new Open Spaces staff. Members of the North West Excellence Assessment Team will be assessing us in July and the results will be known after the award ceremony in September.

3. Enforcement

The Enforcement Unit successfully completed a 'dog chipping road-show' in Millom, Seascale, Cleator Moor, Egremont in May finishing in Whitehaven on Saturday 1st June. The road-show was featured on BBC Radio Cumbria which helped advertise the event. It was well received by the public, with over 70 dogs chipped in Millom alone. It is anticipated a total of over 300 dogs will have been chipped and a further 300 vouchers for free neutering given out. .

4. Leisure Facilities Progress Report June 2006

North Country Leisure

Progress is being made on setting up the new Leisure Copeland Board which will manage the four facilities which transferred on 1st April. Positions on the Board were advertised in the local press, in a newsletter sent to customers, and at the sites. A healthy response has been received and the first appointments will be made by the end of June, with the Portfolio Holder involved in the process.

New computer networks have been installed at all sites to prepare for setting up on-line booking systems later in the year. New web-sites have been prepared for all the sites and the Civic Hall staff are pleased to have acquired www.civichall.org.uk as their address.

A new customer comment system has been introduced at all sites with displays which will show how comments have been acted on.

Whitehaven Sports Centre

The centre aims to attract users from across the local community and it is very pleasing that through the Sports Development unit a weekly football session with the Muslim community of Cumbria has been set up, followed by several independent bookings from the same group. The Parkinson's disease Society are now using the centre for monthly meetings. Football bookings have been taken up by the Distington Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and a similar booking has started for MOBEX based at Workington.

Copeland Swimming Pool

Events have included Tommy's Splashathon in May which raised money for Tommy's baby charity, for premature babies and pregnant women, and a highly successful swimming gala attended by over 250 children (age 9 to 11) from all over the County on 6th May.

Through the Cumbria Outdoor Scheme, in partnership with the County Council, 146 children have attended the pool over the last two months who would not normally get the chance to do so. The new James Bond style sea scooter parties are proving very popular.

Copeland Bowls Centre

With the bowling green now carpeted over for the summer season, 79 children attended half term holiday activities including softball, table tennis and pool. Café proprietor Tania Hollerin put on special offers for the children all week.

Whitehaven Civic Hall

The visit of Morrissey, one of music's biggest names, on 29th April went extremely well with a huge amount of national and indeed international publicity. Words in his well known song "Let me kiss you" were suitably amended to "I've zigzagged all over America but I've never been to Whitehaven" to the delight of the capacity audience.

Just two days before well loved TV comedian Paddy McGuinness had played to a sell out crowd of 400 – we're hoping he'll tell his good mate Peter Kay about Cumbria's premier events venue!

The Civic was as ever delighted to host the annual Mayor Making on 9th May.

Other events have included tribute bands Thanks for the Music and the Clone Roses, the return of the very popular Echo and the Bunnymen, and the highly successful 56th Whitehaven Music Festival with an increased entry from last year. Top glam metal band Hanoi rocks included the Civic in their World Tour playing their hits from the 80's and 90's to one of the most enthusiastic crowds ever. The regular activities at the Civic – including Line Dancing (3 weekly sessions), Tae Kwando (3 sessions), Ladies 50+, Probus, Weight Watchers and Scottish Slimmers have all been successful and are being advertised more widely.

5. Sports Development

Cumbria Youth Games All this month tournaments and festivals are happening all over Copeland to find teams to represent Copeland in The Cumbria Youth Games which the Council is hosting on Saturday 8th July.

There are 16 events at this years Youth Games. The opening and closing ceremony will be at Cumbria Academy of Sport. Other venues being used to

host the events are St Benedict's School, Whitehaven School, Copeland Bowls Centre & Astro Turf, Whitehaven Sports Centre and the orienteering event will be taking place on Kelton Fell at Lamplugh. The Sports Development team have also been busy organising fringe activities to ensure it is a family day out. All participants and volunteers on the day will receive a goodie bag.

The games this year has received many sponsor including Cumberland Building Society (Main Sponsor), Copeland BC, North Country Leisure, Sport England, Whitehaven School, St Benedict's School, Cumbria Healthy Schools, Gretna FC, British Nuclear Group, Pioneer Foods and all other Local Authorities in Cumbria

The Whitehaven News are the media Sponsors and have been covering all pre youth Games tournaments in Copeland and will cover the event on the day.

Community Sports Coaches Scheme Week beginning 5th June 2006 Interviews had taken place to recruit 2 New Community Sports Coaches for Copeland. These are Cricket/Multi skill and Rugby Union.

All 2 successful candidates have been offered the post and at the time of writing, we are waiting to hear of their acceptance of the job.

The cricket/multi skill and Rugby Union posts are both full time positions in Copeland. This will bring the total amount of Community Coaches in Copeland to 3. The first coach (Hockey) was employed in phase 1 of the scheme in September 2005.

6. Arts Development

South Whitehaven Cleaner Greener Communities Photographer Rob Frazer and poet Emma MacGordon are currently working in Kells St Mary's school on a ten-week project. This kicked off a two-year programme of events working in partnership with the National Trust on the coastal strip. This month saw confirmation of 20k funding from the arts council and 60k from Cleaner Safer Greener funding.

National Trust Cleator Moor We have another 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.

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 artifact that promotes and advocates the

areas cultural tourism offer. We have employed professional writers and photographers to work alongside this group to produce an artifact that also promotes cultural tourism in the area.

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.

North Copeland Youth Partnership The partnership was officially launched by The Mayor on Wednesday 31st of May. 100 young people took part in events from music and drumming to climbing and fire-safety.

The Rural Touring Scheme Village Halls in Copeland and Allerdale are currently choosing events for Autumn 2006 from a menu of 14 different acts. ACE dance, a multi-ethnic dance company from Birmingham, recently provided a week's residency, giving workshops in 5 secondary schools in Copeland and Allerdale , culminating in a performance of their dance theatre piece, "Real", about the experiences of women around the world.

Arts and Parks The open spaces performance of 'The Oldest Tree' was postponed due to adverse weather and took place on the 27th of April. The performance marked the culmination of three months work in two primary schools in Whitehaven to develop Castle Park as a creative space.

We worked in partnership with the parks department and performed during the day to an audience of 100.

7. Waste Management

The twin bin scheme has now been successfully extended to another 2100 properties across Copeland. Learning from experience with the initial twin bin roll out in 2003, the Waste team delivered public information packs and the 4200 bins themselves rather than employing a contractor. The delivery operation went extremely well with bins and leaflets delivered to all properties within a two week period. A new refuse vehicle arrived in time for the first green waste collections to begin on Monday 5 June. I am pleased to report there have been very few problems with the change and to date, on the contrary, many residents welcomed the delivery of their new bins. In the first week the crew of 2 men managed to collect 30 tonnes of green waste to be taken for composting.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Contaminated Land Strategy

Date of Decision: 25 April 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/05/206

Context:

This report advises members of the review of the Councils Contaminated Land Strategy. During consideration of this item it was noted that this item should have been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Environmental Well Being and it was agreed that any decision would be subject to final approval by them.

Decision

That subject to approval by OSC – Environmental the Executive the revision of the Contaminated Land Strategy be approved

Subject: Chipside System

Date of Decision: 23 May 2006

Decision Reference: EXE/06/006

Context:

This report seeks approval to obtain £24,042 of the retained IEG project funds to purchase the Chipside software system for the Council's principle Enforcement activities.

Decision

That a) the allocation of £24042 from the reserved IEG funding be approved to purchase the Chipside Software System;

b) in accordance with Contract Standing Order 5.8, section 5.5 be waived; and

c) an progress report be submitted in six months.