

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**COUNCILLOR ALLAN HOLLIDAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****KEITH PARKER - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****1.1 ENFORCEMENT**

A recent 'competition' has been launched by the Enforcement Unit with support from Cleator Moor Town Council and with the encouragement of the youth council. An initiative focuses on a competition for the young people to design an anti dog fouling posters to raise awareness of this antisocial activity. The final designs will be judged in March by the Mayor and prizes will be given to the winning posters.

I should also take this opportunity to confirm officers in explaining at public meetings about new powers and responsibilities falling on the Council through the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act have been taken somewhat out of context by some media. Should we as a Council at some point in the future wish to place a ban on dog walking on certain beaches for certain period, in the interests of public health and well-being, it will of course, be as a result of a decision taken by Members following appropriate consultation undertaken by our officers.

1.2 COPELAND POOL

It should be noted the pool will close on the 16th and 17th March to have new showers installed. The new showers will improve customers experience and also save on energy costs, as they will be fitted with automatic shut off valves.

It is pleasing to note the new aqua natal and postnatal classes established in partnership with the West Cumbria Hospital have been regularly attracting over 30 participants since starting in the New Year.

1.3 BOWLS CENTRE/SYNTHETIC PITCH

In an update from the last report, 15-year-old David Forster has taken part in the national under 25's bowling finals at Nottingham. David got as far as the final round ultimately being beaten by Jamie Chesteney from Norfolk. This is an outstanding performance for one of our young people.

Another Copeland Indoor Bowler 24 year old Ben Sherwen has now been selected to play for England in the forth-coming International bowling competition in Hong Kong.

Linda Rose one of our employees continues to have a good season winning the northern area ladies singles and triples. Linda will now compete in the national finals of these events.

Finally another employee Jackie Walker will have competed in the men's pair's area final on 16th February and the same competition in the fours on 22nd February. Our Centre is the venue for these finals and will attract a large audience.

1.4 ARTS DEVELOPMENT

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 newly created post of lead youth worker has now been filled. The post comes on line in March and will enable the department to deliver a broader spread of work to Parton, Distington, Lowca and Moresby

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.

Crippen, The Prompt is the theatre's first offering. A performance took place in the Alexandra Hall 7th February to an audience of one hundred people.

South Whitehaven Youth Video

The project is a partnership between Copeland Borough Council, Young Cumbria, Cumbria County Council, The National Trust and SRB South Whitehaven.

Lead Artist Russell Cherrington is 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 maps and records the feelings and ideas the young people have about the site, as it exists and their hopes and fears for the future. There will be a celebration and screening of the finished piece for the young people and an invited audience at the Keswick film festival 18th February 06. We will also be staging a launch event at the Rosehill Theatre in the spring to showcase the excellent development

work we deliver with The National Trust, Young Cumbria and other partners on the estate.

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

The West Cumbria Rural-Touring Scheme

The Spring programme of the WCRTS started with three performances by Circus Berzercus, a comedy juggling act, which played well to audiences of fifty in Greysouthen, Blencogo and Parton. Forthcoming performances include three by the New Scorpion Folk Band, two one-woman shows by Alison Neil about Georgian London, four concerts by the Baghdaddies dance band, two by the Classic Buskers and one play by Cartoon de Salvo. In addition the scheme is working in partnership with the New Directions team of Theatre by the Lake on a youth theatre project "Wrestling Shakespeare"; groups of young people will see professional performances in Workington, Keswick, Carlisle, Millom and Whitehaven and then devise their own work based on these for a youth theatre festival in Keswick in April. Future plans include a residency by the culturally diverse dance group ACE dance, which will include performances and schools workshops.

Bob Pritchard started work on 16th January as Project Co-ordinator of the scheme.

At our last Full Council I was asked if the Rural Touring Scheme could be extended into the Tourist season as another attraction. The answer to the question can be summarised as: -

- (i) The Touring Scheme was set up with the explicit aim of working within communities that are isolated and have few cultural opportunities.
- (ii) The Scheme was set up to deliver a service and not to make money; the service was targeted at economically deprived communities hence tickets are priced below market value. This will

mean little money can be made from tourists unless, by increasing ticket prices to make events economically viable, locals are priced out.

- (iii) The Scheme operates in the winter months for practical reason; in the summer time Village Hall committees find it very difficult to operate due to holidays and other commitments.
- (iv) There is an optimal level of activity (3 to 4 performances per year), which we are already operating at.
- (v) The Scheme does not have the resources to expand its operation.

1.5 WHITEHAVEN SPORTS CENTRE

Visits from Whitehaven School pupils

Students from Whitehaven School visited for a tour and talk to help towards their A levels. A Duty Officer showed them around. They were able to observe how our computerized till works, how we monitor our gym members etc and saw how our day-to-day timetable works. They had the opportunity to talk to staff and ask questions

13,000 Member of Tone Zone

The Tone Zone Fitness Suite received its 13,000th Member this Month. We are expecting this number to keep rising as we are in a peak time of the year for gym users wanting to get fit for the summer.

Hexham Visits

Staff and management visited Leisure facilities and North Country Leisure offices during January. They were able to talk to NCL's staff regarding issues to when NCL became a trust and in general met staff and discussed potential working arrangements when NCL will be working in partnership with the Council.

Meeting with CBC / NCL and the NHS

A meeting has been held with members of staff from the Primary Care Trust, North Country Leisure and Copeland Borough Council to discuss the possibility of starting up a G.P.Referral scheme at the sports centre and swimming pool. Further meetings have been set up to further this objective ensuring our Leisure Facilities are used to improve the health of residents in particular need.

1.6 WHITEHAVEN CIVIC HALL

2 of the biggest events ever held in Cumbria were announced to be playing Whitehaven Civic Hall at the end of January. It was revealed that the Hall had managed to secure shows from comedian Paddy McGuinness and

unbelievably Morrissey had requested to come to the Hall on his upcoming tour this April.

Tickets for the Paddy show set a record for the time taken for the show to sell out, all tickets went within 3 working days. That record never lasted long however. Tickets for the Morrissey show went on sale on Friday, 27th January at 9am and sold out within 45 minutes of going on sale. In fact the whole Morrissey tour, consisting of 29 dates taking in venue's much larger than the Civic, selling out in around 10 minutes. On average the amount of tickets sold in this time would be around 72,500.

Other events that took place in Jan / Feb 06 included the sell out Rock 24/7 event, Tokyo Dragons, the next big thing in rock, visited at the end of Jan and far exceeded expectation's. Dance show Disney Dreams had the customers flocking in a Children's show Jack and Jill also appeared.

1.7 THE BEACON & TOURISM SERVICES

Education Services. Beacon staff taught 66 children during January (29 in January 2005), bringing the total number of pupil visits (BV170c) for the year so far to 1469 (total for 2004/05 was 903). 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.

Lifelong Learning. 5 **activity workshops** took place during January and were attended by participants from age 6 upwards. Artwork produced by the ongoing Life Drawing classes for adults are on display in the Harbour Gallery until 11 March. On 28 January, the **Young Archaeologists Club** experienced "Medieval Mayhem" with re-enactor Ian McNichol.

Increased use of Beacon facilities. Room hire was arranged for 44 occasions during January, demonstrating continued use of The Beacon by local community groups. 3 outreach talks were arranged for January and included venues in Seascale, Harrington and the Daniel Hay Library.

2. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

3. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None