

EXECUTIVE REPORT**FULL 28.07.05****ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO****COUNCILLOR ALLAN HOLLIDAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER****KEITH PARKER - LEAD OFFICER****1 KEY ISSUES - PROGRESS REPORT****CULTURE****Summer Activities Programme 2005**

The Sports Development Team is once again delivering a multi sports summer programme to all areas of Copeland. Venues include Millom, Haverigg, Seascale, Egremont, Cleator Moor, Moresby, Frizington and many more. Other sports specific activities have also been organised which include Netball Development Camp, Rugby Union Development Camp, Girls Football Development Camp and Fishing Taster days.

Four Sports Leaders have been employed by to help the team to deliver all these activities across the borough.

Coach Education Programme

Sports Development has received extra funding from Cumbria Sport to hold another Child Protection for clubs and individuals working with young people. The opportunity has come about as a result of demand for child protection training in West Cumbria. It will have taken on Monday 25th July, 6-9pm at Cumbria Sports Academy. The previous training session was held at Whitehaven RUFC with 9 people from Copeland attending.

Copeland and Allerdale Sports Development have also recently had a successful funding bid from the Primary Care Trust to fund the coach education programme. The PCT have awarded £18,000. The funding will be used to fund both generic and sports specific courses.

COPELAND POOL

Drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death for children and 80% of all drownings occur at inland water areas. In response to this Copeland Pool has organised in partnership with the ASA a get safe for summer campaign involving 8 local Schools and over 150 children. The event was programmed for the 18th and 19th July.

Staff at the pool will in a fun way be delivering important messages raising awareness of the importance of learning to swim and water confidence, increase knowledge and practical water safety skills, raise awareness that

organised, supervised water based activity is fun and safe, introduce new water based skills such as snorkelling, promote swimming as part of a healthy lifestyle and family activity and provide a fun and memorable experience.

The pool also now runs lifesaving classes for children and has formed a Rookie lifeguard club that has over 30 members.

An external Quest maintenance visit was carried out over a full day on Saturday 28th May looking at all operational systems including Health and Safety, Strategy and Business Planning, Customer Feedback and other areas. A detailed report has been received with areas for improvement.

Six members of staff from the swimming pool took part in the National lifeguard Challenge on the 11th June 2005. This tested the teamwork, physical fitness, individual and team knowledge and skills of all the staff. The competition placed the Pool Lifeguard within the public eye, a very positive 'Shop Window' of opportunity to sell the humane commitment that Lifeguards give to their communities each day of their working lives. Our team did really well coming a respectable 10th place.

The "Shape up for Summer" campaign has started well and is offering 30 days swimming for £10 with the hope of signing new customers up on the new direct debit scheme at the pool.

BOWLS CENTRE/SYNTHETIC PITCH

The bowls centre is running summer activities for children during School holidays and was very successful during the May week with over 20 children attending every day.

These will continue in the summer holidays. The synthetic pitch is also being used by Sports Development colleagues during the summer holidays for activities and coaching.

WHITEHAVEN CIVIC HALL

In June the Civic Hall saw a visit from the legendary rock band '**The Quireboys**', a week long run of the show '**Annie**' performed by the Whitehaven Theatre Group, Ska –Punk favorites '**Captain Everything**' stopped by as part of their latest national tour & the UK's number one under 18's dance event '**Temptation**' saw a record attendance figure since it started in September 2004.

All shows more than matched expectations and provided a return against costs on ticket sales alone.

Attendance figures compared to June 2004 rocketed, due to the week long run of '**Annie**', seeing 2889 people coming to events in June 05, as opposed to the 763 we had in June 04.

July 2005 saw a visit to the Civic Hall from one of the most influential bands on modern music ever. **Echo & the Bunnymen** played to 488 customers on 8th July as a warm up show prior to their appearance at Scotland's premier music festival - T in the Park. The band had also played Glastonbury a week earlier.

The show turned out to be a massive success for the Civic Hall and all involved, the band stated how pleasantly surprised they were at how well organized and professionally run the show was, given the size and location of Whitehaven Civic Hall.

The show also set a new record of money made on one performance, the Civic made £764 on ticket sales, £1629 with bar sales.

WHITEHAVEN SPORTS CENTRE

The Sports centre worked in partnership with Howgill play centre and in particular the Sure Start Scheme in organizing a full day for up to 150 young children and providing them with activities such as obstacle courses, ball games and soft play to name a few to enable the children to participate in new activities and meet new friends.

Various schools booked the centre to try new activities. Schools from Harrington, Montreal and Whitehaven participated in football, aeroball, roller-skating, table tennis, basketball plus many other activities.

A coaching session was organised in tabletop cricket for Mayfield School to help with the coordination of the school pupils

S. Cunningham and A. Burns attended a Quest Conference in Harrogate which would help with the forthcoming quest inspection through learning new procedures, getting up dated on the quest quality award and more importantly networking with other managers who participate in the quest scheme.

ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Parton

The drumming workshops (Thursday evening) and the rock school (Monday evening) continue at Parton Youth Club. We have a chance to perform to and engage with more local young people at the Copeland Borough Council supported North Copeland Youth Partnership Launch event. The event was held at Lowca RFU on Sunday 17th July .

Millom/Haverigg

Our successful Youth Theatre performed at the Millom Schools Arts Festival last weekend. We are waiting on an Arts Council bid to continue the excellent work by professional actress/agent Jackie Moore. We are feeling fairly confident about the outcome.

The artist residency continues at Millom School and HMP Haverigg. Artist Del Whitticase has produced some exciting work, which will be displayed in and around the town. We want to keep the details quiet but we expect a successful and high profile outcome over the summer months.

National Trust

This month sees the start of artist Jane Dudman's work with Montreal, St.Patricks and Ennerdale Schools supported by ourselves and The National Trust. We are excited to be working with a new partner and National agency to promote the arts as action research and a tool to engage young people.

English Heritage

We also begin a writing/photography project partnering English Heritage. EH has newly hired outreach staff and we are partnering the North West Region Worker to show how the arts can deliver our shared objectives.

Lego

We are currently developing a project with West Lakes Renaissance to engage the people of Whitehaven in the regeneration debate. A group of designers and performers will be working with local groups to build Whitehaven. The future built environment will be designed and constructed using lego with the resulting animated film and models on display in commercial spaces in the town centre. The project is planned for early September.

Pirates

Young People from South Whitehaven will be making a film in the town centre in August/September. Young Cumbria's 'climbing' group will be recreating Touching the Void/Cliffhanger on the pedestrianised streets of central Whitehaven. The results will be projected in the Town Centre in autumn.

The Beacon

This month saw us support artist Richard Wood deliver outreach work to the pupils of Euanside School in the Harbour Gallery.

The West Cumbria Touring Scheme

The West Cumbria Touring Scheme is continuing to bring professional performing arts into the heart of rural communities in West Cumbria. The success of the previous six years has built up a vibrant network of promoters and an ever-increasing number of venues on the scheme and by expanding the range of performances, workshops and outreach available the scheme is building on these successes.

In 2005/2006 the WCTS is organising INSET Teacher Training Workshops and up to 30 workshops, these included:

Subitango, five musicians and two dancers, who are the most exciting, dance genres ever to have emerged from Latin America. They are delivering a three day music and dance workshop with Stainburn School, which will building up to finally performance.

They are also delivering an INSET Teacher Training Workshop.

The Classic Buskers-featuring Michael Copley on over thirty woodwind instruments and Ian Moore on accordion. They are visiting schools in West Cumbria, providing 11 half day workshops and an INSET Training workshop. Kakatsitsi– Master Drummers from Ghana, will be having a day of community workshops in Wigton and Plumbland.

Wrestling with Shakespeare are providing a week of workshops introducing performance, adaptation, basic filming techniques, virtual technology and editing skills

In 2005/2006 the WCTS has programmed 17 performing artists from professional touring companies with loads more to be added. These include home talent, a sparky new play from a young West Cumbrian writer, Alison Neil– The Shakespeares Ladies Club. Cartoon de Salvo, Multistory– Surviving Blue Beard as well as music from around the country including Jim Crawford, The Baghdaddies, Hank Wangford and Pete Harris. The Scheme also has programmed performances for all the family including Circusberzus, The Puppet Lab, Jack Drum Arts, Little Red Riding Hood and the Tales of Robin Hood.

THE BEACON & WHITEHAVEN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Visitor Figures for The Beacon during May were 5055 and June were 6635, both considerably higher than last year's figure (4027 in May 2004 and 3572 in June 2004).

Beacon Redevelopment It has been confirmed that the West Cumbria Development Fund have agreed to allocate £350,000 to the Beacon Redevelopment project, filling the shortfall left by Northern Rock.

Maritime Festival – The Beacon received 2743 visitors during the weekend 25 & 26 June. Visitors took the opportunity to buy half price tickets to the Museum, and café takings alone amounted to £1165 (almost double the amount taken during 2003 festival).

Harbour Gallery visitors for May were 1665 and 2889 for June (1411 May 2004 and 980 for June 2004). The current exhibition "Endeavour Triptych" is on show until 30 July.

Room hire was arranged for 37 occasions during May and for 42 occasions during June (31 in May 2004 and 34 in June 2004)

Schools & Groups. 242 children were taught by Beacon staff during May (109 during May 2004), and 116 during June (98 during June 2004).

Family Events. Half term children and family workshops, including Roaring Rockets and Caribbean-style crafts, were fully booked.

Whitehaven Young Archaeologists' Club. On 23 July, the Young Archaeologists will take part in a special "Finds Session" with Dot Bruns, Archaeology Finds Liaison Officer for Cumbria and Lancashire. There was no session in June due to the Maritime Festival.

Outreach Talks 5 outreach talks were arranged for May and 2 for June (2 talks in May 2004 and 2 in June 2004).

TIC. Whitehaven Tourist Information Centre received 4571 enquiries during May and 5623 in June (612 In May and 5056 in June 2004).

ENVIRONMENT

'Preparations are underway for integrating the waste management and pest control service requests onto BT Contact Central. The existing processes have been mapped and simplified. Integrating waste management and pest control onto the Contact Central system will reduce current inefficiencies by eliminating duplication and clarifying responsibilities. The benefits include relieving some of the administrative pressure in both Copeland Direct and Leisure & Environment, and enabling the Council to offer an improved and more responsive service to customers. The project is on track to deliver in Sept 05

STREET SCENE

Play Areas

A new multi-use ball games area has been installed in Millom Park using one of the tennis courts and new fencing installed all round the remaining courts and ball games area. Plans are also in place to re-surface and re-mark the whole area.

Parks Development Officer

Interviews took place on 8 July for the Parks Development Officer's position. Ruth Walsh, who currently occupies a similar position with Allerdale Borough Council, will be joining us shortly.

Street Infrastructure

Following the Urgent Action Report I am pleased to be able to confirm the new railings were installed on the wall leading from Wellington Lodge to the South Shore car park. Installation was completed one week prior to the Maritime Festival.

Repairs and resurfacing works have been carried out on tarmac paths in Millom Park and Castle Park.

Enforcement

An appointment has been made for the Enforcement Manager's post, the new manager Steven Bishop will be joining on the 8th of August.

Parking

I am aware that the issue has already been reported in the media, but I would like to take this opportunity to confirm the Council has been able to support BNFL with the provision of off site parking for staff during the recent heightened security position.

Former Kangol Factory Site At Frizington

Since my report to last month's meeting I am pleased to be able to report that there have been no further environmental problems at the site. The Environment Agency (EA) and the council (through the officers of the Environmental Health Section) have maintained, and will continue to maintain, a close watch on the site. The question of prosecution proceedings by both the EA and the council, in respect of various offences, is still under consideration.

Westlakes Research Institute – Annual Visit

The annual visit took place on 30 June. Councillors and other visitors (including 3 Tanzanian guests involved with the Copeland-Rungwe Link) received a general presentation from the Principal and Chief Executive of the Institute (Dr Steve Bradley) and from other staff of the Institute on work carried out regarding recycling of waste in Copeland, air quality in Copeland, water quality in Whitehaven Harbour and genetics.

Waste Management

I should advise colleagues that in support of the County wide waste partnership Officers attended two site visits in July. One of these was to a "Biological, Mechanical Treatment " (BMT) at Thornley near Durham and the other an "Energy from Waste" plant at Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire. Both visits confirmed how far recent advances in waste management technology have gone and have given some idea of the likely future waste management

options open to our County Council colleagues in meeting the challenges presented by our ever increasing waste mountain.

Maritime Festival

In my last report I identified our waste management team would be providing the refuse and clean up operations for the Maritime Festival. Having applied the lessons learnt from their first experience two years ago the team did a tremendous job clearing up the mess created by the 250,000 visitors to this year's festival.

3 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

None

4 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Subject: Whitehaven (1992) Ltd

Date of Decision: 14 June 2005

Decision Reference: EXE/05/026

Context:

To consider a request that Whitehaven (1992) Limited disposes of its shares in Whitehaven Rugby League Football Club Ltd.

Decision

That a) the report be noted; and

b) Councillor A Holliday and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services attend the Whitehaven (1992) Ltd. AGM; and

c) No decision be made by Council at that meeting but that the matter be reported back and the Council's formal decision making process be followed.