

Report Statement

Report Purpose:

To update committee on progress and work associated with local service delivery.

Author:

Community and Events Manager, Town Clerk, Town Centre Manager and Projects Officer

6.1 Events update

Park Fit

From the 1st November which was after the half term break, up to the last Park Fit prior to Christmas, all sessions included in that timeframe had a total of 276 views, which is an average of 23 per session.

The lowest figure received was 5 and the highest was 56.

Following discussions with Matt Rigby and the figures mentioned above, it has been decided to continue with on-line Facebook Park Fit sessions, but only on Thursdays.

The Communities Manager and Town Centre Manager are currently engaged in an exercise exploring different scenarios, such as Park Fit taking place in person but inside during the colder weather we are experiencing at the moment, and then alternative locations so that come the spring Park Fit could return outside.

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee – October to March

In partnership with the town ranger team, we delivered a tree planting project as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy'. This is a project to invite local schools and community groups to plant a tree provided by the town council. 11 schools took part in this project which has been well received by the community.

Remembrance projection – 8th to 15th November.

This project was very well received by members of the public with lots of positive feedback online. Before we can commit to future projections, we need to find another suitable location as the one used for this is now no longer available.

Step into Christmas launch event - Saturday 20th November

This event was well attended with a great atmosphere in the town centre throughout the day. The only difference between this and a usual 'switch on event' was that there was no countdown and official switch on time. Feedback from traders was that it was busier throughout the whole day whereas in previous years it was just very busy around the time of the switch on.

Advent Trail

See attached report

Late night shopping event

See attached report

Winter projection trail

See attached report

Tree of Light

Thursday 9th December

This project went well with over 800 stars being returned and hung on the town centre Christmas tree.

The event was well attended despite awful wet and windy weather.

Chinese New Year

Saturday 29th January

Due to the rising Covid-19 cases over Christmas and New Year, this event had to be re-imagined so that we could plan something that was definitely able to go ahead.

The plan is for the Chinese animals and dragon to be housed in an empty unit in the Grosvenor Centre. On the 29th January, the Tytherington School Mandarin Choir will perform in market place and then people will be invited to look at the animals created by Artspace in the Grosvenor Centre. People will also be encouraged to take part in the virtual reality trail around the shops throughout the week. We will be giving out red envelopes to children (a lucky symbol) as well as red knots.

Macclesfield Food Festival

Due to issues of being short staffed within the town council team, this event will be paused until such a time that officers have the capacity to support the planning of this event.

Queen's Jubilee celebrations

For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee lunch on 5th June 2022, nationally, communities are being encouraged to share a picnic lunch with their neighbours. The events team have made enquiries with key locations in each ward to discuss the town council providing funding and planning support to host a community party in each ward on this date. All 7 wards now have confirmed involvement which is fantastic. Each location has been asked to complete a form outlining their plans for the event so we can support with permissions.

Upcoming event dates

The below dates have been chosen for the upcoming events:

Easter trail – Throughout the Easter Holidays

We plan to deliver an easter trail around the town centre shops. We had planned to do this in 2021 but due to restrictions it wasn't possible.

Eco update - 14th May

This will be a one hour session held at the town hall and will be an update on progress since the eco-summit which was held in May 2021.

Bikeathon - 14th May

This community event will be supported by the events team and delivered in partnership with Just Drop In and Allgood Cycling.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Town Centre trail and community picnics – Weekend beginning 3rd June

As detailed above, the plan is for there to be a community party picnic in each ward on the weekend of 4th June. Most parties will take place on the 5th June. This is in line with national celebration guidance encouraging local communities to spend a few hours together.

We also plan to look at delivering a themed trail around the town centre.

Barnaby - 18th June

The Barnaby Festival parade will take place on this date.

Macc-POW! Comic art festival – 2nd and 3rd July

The events team are working with local artist Marc Jackson to deliver this event which attracts people from all across the country to Macclesfield.

Macclesfield Pride - 9th July

There has been a change in trustee's of the group. When the new trustees are appointed, we will be meeting with the group to discuss plans for the 2022 event.

Older persons Day - 1st October

This year, we plan to hold a face to face party to celebrate National Older Persons Day.

Welly Walk and Nature Needs You and Eco Summit - 8th October

The annual Welly Walk event will have a new twist this year as due to synergy with the eco-summit, the two events are being combined. Macctastic will lead on town centre educational talks in St Michael's church while the town council events officers (working with local groups) will lead on the family aspect of the eco summit in West Park.

Christmas light switch on – 26th November

The format of the 2021 event had to be changed to ensure public safety in relation to Covid-19. However, lots of positive feedback was received from businesses and the public so we will be considering how the lessons learned from the new format can be incorporated into a traditional switch on event. It has been decided that the day prior to Treacle Market would work well, increasing the festive feel of the weekend in town and being that little bit closer to the start of December.

Tree of Light - 8th December

The event will take place on the above date and stars with messages hung on them will go on the town centre Christmas tree.

Late night shopping – 15th December

One of the comments was that the date of late night shopping was too early in December. Following discussions with Ed Kennedy of the Grosvenor Centre, Mickey Jones (local trader) and Kay Stevenson from Macc Means Business, it has been decided that a date close to Christmas would be better. It would be wise to consult with other traders before confirming this.

Chinese New Year - 21st January 2023

The event will take place on the above date.

6.2 Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights tender for 2022 onwards was first advertised in November 2021. The deadline for submissions was the 31st January 2022. The submissions will be considered by the panel.

6.3 Floral displays

The Town Rangers have taken on more floral displays around town for example, the winter hanging baskets. There is now a clear plan of what Ansa have responsibility for and what the Town Rangers have responsibility for which is extremely helpful as we move towards spring and the spring/summer bedding.

The Britain in Bloom committee moves forwards with the plans for Macclesfield's entry, including the involvement of community groups and allotments, and plans to invite all local businesses to take part over the next weeks.

6.4 Public toilets

There has still been no decision on the bid to the national government submitted by CEC and match funded by MTC for a changing places toilet in the town centre. If successful these facilities will be situated at the back of the indoor market, which would also be desirable position for all toilet facilities. Currently CEC are carrying out a consultation on the markets, and MTC have highlighted the need for public conveniences and the suitability of this venue.

6.5 Festoons

No issues to report

6.6 Jordangate tree lights

In November, we reported some of the tree lights on Jordan gate as being unlit. LITE attended site and repaired them as best as they could.

They sent back the following statement:

"It would seem that this particular tree (and probably the others as well) has grown and is now being strangled by the lighting strings, one set of which has consequently broken and now needs replacing."

LITE have suggested that the lights should be taken off the trees so that they can be re-dressed to prevent this happening in more of the trees.

The cost is detailed below:

To supply a 1 no. 20m length of CherryLED festoon with 50 no. ultra-bright warm white lamps protected with clear polycarbonate globes, for the sum of **£475 total**.

To completely strip off all lights on all nine trees, inspect all of the cables and then re-install along with the one new set of lights, for the sum of **£2,870 total**.

Grand total therefore would be £3,345 + VAT

ACTION – To approve the cost of the above work

6.7 Tunnickliffe Trail

No agreement yet on ownership of the wall at the bus station, chase emails have been sent numerous times to Cheshire East Legal.

No reply to messages sent to Cheshire East Planning regarding clarity on whether planning permission is required. This information is needed before further progress can be made.

6.8 Barnaby Air

To receive and note the attached report.

END OF REPORT