

Report Statement

Report Purpose:

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

Author:

Community and Events Manager, Town Clerk and Projects Officer

6.1 Events update

Park Fit

Park Fit continues to be popular when broadcast virtually on Facebook twice a week.

Since the beginning of September when Park Fit resumed after the summer holidays, there have been 96 (as of 8th October) views of the sessions which run live on Facebook and that can be viewed on Matt Rigbys Facebook page. This equates to 12 people per session, which is slightly more than when the sessions ran in the park.

Older persons day event – 1st October

As in previous years, Live at Home delivered this event, supported by the town council events team. As the face to face groups still haven't resumed, door step deliveries of packages were made to over 160 households throughout the town. This year, through our partnership with ELov, deliveries were made on the bike.

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee – October to March

In partnership with the town ranger team, we plan to deliver 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. The lead town ranger is meeting with local schools to discuss appropriate places for planting and 11 schools are now involved.

Welly Walk and Nature Needs You event – Saturday 9th October

Our first face to face event in 21 months went very well. The event was well attended by approximately 2,000 people throughout the day. Feedback received was all positive with lots of families learning more about the great outdoors.

Track and Trace QR codes were available as was hand sanitiser in order to help maintain the safety of the event.

One attendee told us how she had attended the first Welly Walk in 2017 and her granddaughter had planted a seed at one of our stalls. That seed is now a 2m high tree. The hope with this event is to inspire children to love the outdoors and our planet and we think this story reflects that.

The plan for 2022 is for this event to be held as part of an eco-summit day. The Welly Walk and Nature Needs You event will be the family aspect and while this happens, there will also be educational talks taking place in the town centre. There is a lot of potential to grow this event and partner up with other organisations so we will be exploring this possibility. The date we have pencilled in for this is Saturday 8th October 2022.

Macclesfield Bikeathon – 23rd October.

The Town Council events team are supporting Allgood Cycling and Just Drop In to plan this event which will be delivered by Just Drop In and Allgood Cycling. 3 levels of ride will set off from and return to Market Place.

Remembrance projection – 8th to 15th November.

The Town Centre Manager has been working hard to ensure this project can go ahead.

Originally, Natwest was proposed as the ideal location for the projector. However, after lots of meetings, try outs of the projector and discussion, it has been deemed unsuitable due to the film on the window glass.

Plan B was to use the CCTV post. This was ruled out due to potentially overloading the post.

Plan C was to use the vacant floor above PR Jones Jewellers on the corner of Chestergate. The landlord of this premises has been extremely supportive of the project and has agreed use of the window for the projection. It will be slightly less central than the original plan of using the Natwest window but Lighthouse are confident that the projection will still be really effective from this position.

Step into Christmas launch event - Saturday 20th November

11am-5pm

Stage entertainment, street entertainment, craft fair, Santa's grotto, brass band, mulled wine, festive projection and the Father Christmas parade. The start of Christmas in Macclesfield, this event has been adapted from the usual switch on format. The adaptations were made in consultation with Cheshire East Council and advice from public health. The changes to the event were made so that if Covid cases rise, an event could still be delivered.

Planning for this event is now in its final stages.

Advent Trail

25 shops have signed up to this project with the theme of 'Christmas songs'. Each shop has been allocated a song and will decorate their window with that theme.

We are also partnering with Local High Street who will be producing an app for us in time for the launch of the Advent Trail on the 1st December. The app will allow people to follow the trail, leave reviews of the shops and if shops would like to run a special offer for followers of the trail, people will receive this offer while they are stood right outside.

Late night shopping event

The Town Centre Manager is working with Macclesfield Hospitality Action to deliver this event.

There will be a large tepee with open sides in Market Place with seating underneath, fairy lights decorating it and flanked by a singer who performs from her horsebox stage! There will be food, hot drinks, mulled wine and mince pies.

15 shops have already signed up to take part with more just awaiting confirmation from Head Office.

Winter projection trail

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th December

The delayed projection trail from 2020 will now take place as part of this years 'Step into Christmas' events. Plans are well underway. LIT will lead on this event which people will need to pre-book onto. This will aid track and trace and help maintain the safety of people attending.

Tree of Light

Thursday 9th December

6pm

On the lead up to this event, people are invited to write a message on a star to loved ones they miss, to then be hung on the Market Place Christmas tree. The response so far to this project has been fantastic. Over 1,600 stars have already been requested by the community.

The 9th December is a chance for people to come together to reflect on their lost loved one at Christmas time, away from the rush of the festive season. There will be carols and readings led by St Michael's Church.

Tunncliffe Celebration

A group has been established to help celebrate 120 years since the birth of local artist Charles Tunncliffe. The Community and Events Manager and Events and Communications Officer are part of this group. The aim is to promote the work of Charles Tunncliffe at as many events in the town as possible.

The events team have commissioned local artist Jacki Clark to deliver a Tunncliffe inspired town centre virtual reality trail in October to contribute to the celebrations. So far, 5 shops have signed up to be a part of the trail with more expected to confirm in the coming days. There is a workshop to create the artwork for the trail on the 23rd October at the Silk Museum which is fully booked. There is also going to be a workshop via zoom with residents from Belong care home to create artwork for the trail.

Chinese New Year - Saturday 29th January

10am – 2pm

United Reformed Church, Park Green

Plans for this event are underway. We are confident at this stage that a safe event can be delivered. The United Reformed Church offers a one-way system that is ideal for maintaining safety in relation to Covid-19.

There will be a parade supported by Macclesfield Community Artspace, a trail around town centre shops, a chance to try Chinese food and an opportunity to have a go at craft activities as well as a performance from the Tytherington School Mandarin Choir.

Macclesfield Food Festival

We would like to put out the tender for this event in November to invite applications to deliver the food festival. This will ensure there is enough time to appoint, plan and deliver for a 2022 event.

The suggested decision-making panel for this tender are the two Councillors for Central Ward, the Champion for Leisure, the Town Clerk, The Events and Communications Officer (Town Centre Manager) and the Community and Events Manager.

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. So far, 6 out of the 7 wards have confirmed involvement which is fantastic. Further contact will be made with each ward in the new year to firm up plans.

6.2 Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights tender for 2022 onwards will go out in November so that potential applicants can come and view this years display. Tenders will need to be submitted by mid-January so that a decision can be made for 2022 for a period of 3 years.

6.3 Floral displays

Please see separate report.

6.4 Public toilets

The Council continue to pursue the land for the toilets on Exchange St and are actively looking for other options, acknowledging that when M and S moves that those toilets will no longer be available.

CEC has also submitted a bid to national government for a changing places facility, with match funding from the town council.

6.5 Festoons

Festoons on Church Street

The Festoons on Church Street were reported to LITE on the 22nd September as it was noted that approx a third of the bulbs were out.

LITE confirmed this would be actioned ASAP, and this has been done.

6.6 Tunncliffe Trail

Some initial advice has now been received from Planning to enable us to take the next steps forward. Detailed technical drawings of exactly what the panels will look like including profile need to be prepared and once Planning has this they will confirm whether each location will require planning permission. We currently don't have such drawings and I am looking into how to get these without a large cost.

The ownership of the gable wall at 80 Mill Street (Crafty Corner premises by the bus station) is still under dispute. This has now been with Cheshire East Legal since at least December 2020 and despite chasing, does not seem to be any further forward.

6.7 Barnaby Festival

See attached reports.