

## **Report Statement**

### **Report Purpose:**

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

### **Author:**

Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Town Centre Manager and Events Officer.

## **6.1 Events update**

### **Park Fit**

Park Fit moved to All Hallows at the end of September to ensure that the sessions could continue running even when the weather is wet/cold/dark.

The sessions mean that there are more options in terms of bringing equipment and utilising the benches and other items that are already in the hall.

Sessions are seeing 7-10 people attending and feedback is good. Sessions will remain in All Hallows until the spring.

### **Older persons Day - 1st October**

This year we supported two organisations in putting on events for Older Persons Day, Age UK: Cheshire East and MHA. Both events provided opportunities for socialising and activities for older people across Macclesfield and both events were well attended despite difficulties in promoting the events due to restrictions around national mourning.

See attached Reports 6.1a and 6.1ab

### **Nature Needs You – 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October saw our Nature Needs You event return to West Park. This year we needed to accommodate some wildflower seeding in park which meant moving to a larger site – this was not only beneficial for accommodating more visitors but also had the added bonus of being close to the skate park which a lot of the children attending really seemed to enjoy. The event was very well attended and busy from start to finish with stall-holders estimating around 300 children taking part in various activities. Feedback on the event from both stallholders and members of the public was very positive and it was lovely to see people staying on and enjoying the park facilities after the event had ended.

## **Eco Summit - 8th October**

Planning the Eco Summit on 8<sup>th</sup> October did come with some issues. Unfortunately, Macctastic had to step down from being co-hosts and at the last minute MTC had to find suitable speakers and ensure they would be able to do an appropriate talk and produce slides.

Due to the issues, invites went out a little later than we would have liked, and we were not able to do as much promotion as we would liked.

On the day, we welcomed around 35 people which is more than the update in May 2022, to listen to Prof Ian Loader, Macctastic, Macc Wild Network and Macclesfield Community Tree Nursery talk about relevant projects in Macclesfield.

## **Spooky Saturday – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

This year we celebrated Halloween in the Town Centre with Spooky Saturday. The Grosvenor Centre kindly allowed us to use a large unit to host ArtSpace's Crafty Crypt, where children could take part in various Halloween themed crafts, story-time and drawing classes. In Market Place children could have their face painted, interact with our Pumpkin and Scarecrow walkabout acts and enjoy Macclesfield Youth Brass Band's incredible Zombie Brass Band performance. The town Pumpkin Trail proved extremely popular with retailers and members of the public alike with over 200 children taking part in tracking down the 36 pumpkins hidden in shops and businesses around Macclesfield. The town centre saw increased footfall for the day compared to the previous Saturday and the businesses taking part commented on the buzz around town. Additional businesses have already reached out to be part of future town-centre trails and we received a lot of very positive feedback both in person and on social media.

## **Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday – 11<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The annual Armistice Day service took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November outside the town hall and was attended by members of the public and several local school groups.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November saw the Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph. A busy crowd watched as dignitaries, members of the civic party and representatives from community organisations laid wreaths in commemoration.

## **Remembrance projection**

As discussed at previous service committee meetings, we have struggled this year to find a suitable location from which to project onto the Town Hall. The empty office

space we used last year has now been turned into flats which are not available to us, Natwest which has the best sight lines is not an option and everything else is too far away or on an angle. Cheshire East were contacted to see if we could attach the rig to either the CCTV pole or the lamppost opposite the Town Hall and both have come back as a no.

Lightech are therefore going to project from the Town Hall onto Market Place. We have checked this with Highways and there are no issues with this option. Installation will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Step Into Christmas – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The kick off to Macclesfield's Christmas celebrations will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. From 10am we'll have activities and entertainment in the Market Place with walkabout acts, balloon modelers and face-painters. Silk FM will host the live stage with a series of local community and professional acts and musicians. We'll have ArtSpace hosting a tree-decoration workshop in the Grosvenor centre, a living crafting window on Chestergate and Santa's Grotto inside the Town Hall. The Father Christmas parade will pass through town from 3pm in time for our new town centre Christmas lights to come on for the first time.

### **Tree of Light - 8th December 2022**

The Tree of Light service of remembrance and contemplation will take place in front of the town centre Christmas tree on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. The service will be led by Reverend Martin Stephens from St. Michaels Church and there will be readings from the Mayor of Macclesfield and local funeral service leaders. Carols will be led by the choirs All Hallows Catholic College and St. Albans School.

### **Late night shopping – 15th December 2022**

At the time of writing (18<sup>th</sup> October) all plans for Late Night Shopping are underway. MTC are again working with Macclesfield Hospitality Action who have the experience in the food and beverage and entertainment side of things. The tipi has been booked and a site visit conducted. Food providers and the bar have been booked, as well as two brass bands and we are exploring a singer with acoustic accompaniment as well.

Shops on our mailing list have all been informed of the event and are starting to let us know if they are going to be open. We will do more targeted communications and now we know the event works, we will do more work on promoting the event locally.

## **Chinese New Year - 21st January 2023**

In recognition of Macclesfield's historic connection with China as the end point of the Silk Road plans are in progress for this year's Chinese New Year celebrations.

This year's event will celebrate the Year of the Rabbit and will contain the traditional elements of the event such as the parade down Mill Street with the ArtSpace Chinese Dragon plus activities and exhibitions of Chinese art and music. A tasting menu of Chinese food will be available inside the United Reformed Church as well as crafting and educational resources.

## **Upcoming 2023 Events**

Events for 2023 are still in the initial organisation stages but include plans for a Lantern Parade in February, Easter celebrations in collaboration with town centre businesses, the King's Coronation in May, regular performances in the parks' bandstands from the spring, Armed Forces Day in the town centre on 1<sup>st</sup> July plus a programme of activities for the summer holidays.

## **Party in the Pews - May 2023**

Decision required, see attached report 6.1b

### **6.2 Floral displays**

Macclesfield Town Council along with the wonderful community have won GOLD, at the North West Britain In Bloom finals in the category of small city.

This was a collective entry combined of The Town Council Rangers, ANSA, the Wildflower Network, Grow Macclesfield, The East Cheshire Hospice, Macclesfield Community Garden centre and many wonderful groups, business and shops and volunteers including Scoop and Scales who litter picked the day before judging to make the Town look clean and tidy.

The brochure containing many of the groups in Macclesfield can be found here:

<https://www.macclesfield-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Macclesfield-In-Bloom-Portfolio-2022.pdf>

The process starts again for next year, where the aim is to achieve gold again and look at further categories that maybe suitable.

### **6.3 Public toilets**

MTC continues to work with CEC and hopes that significant developments can be made public shortly to provide toilets for the public in the town centre.

At present the Town Council supports ST. Michaels Church with a donation towards the upkeep of their toilets which can be used at the following times:

CEC inform that the library toilets can also be used.

The Town Council has earmarked £100,000 towards toilets for public use.

#### **6.4 Festoons**

No update

#### **6.5 Tunnickliffe Trail**

The Assistant Town Clerk is working with Cllr Janet Jackson MBE to define the final route of the trail. A significant amount of time has passed since the project was first proposed and it was only just before the previous services committee meeting that the Cheshire East planning department confirmed that planning permission was not required as long as the pictures do not exceed certain dimensions. Because so long has passed, we need to check that any building owners permissions we have received are still valid.