

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 continues in it's winter home of All Hallows. Numbers have increased steadily since Christmas, with 13 attending on 3rd Feb and 17 on the 10th Feb.

Sessions continue with a mixture of bodyweight only, using the equipment already in the hall such as the benches and then equipment that Matt brings with him.

The sessions will continue at All Hallows until Easter.

Step Into Christmas – 26th November 2022

There was an impressive turn out from residents for this year's Step Into Christmas event. The town centre was busy throughout the day and into the evening with people enjoying live music, activities and entertainment. MTC Councillor's got involved in our crafty Living Window in the Grosvenor Centre and the ArtSpace Christmas decorations workshop was full to capacity all day. Younger and older residents enjoyed free face painting and balloon modelling from our local contractors and Silk FM hosted entertainment including Macc Youth Brass Band and introduced the Mayor who gave a speech to the assembled crowd.

Tree of Light - 8th December 2022

This year due to extreme cold temperatures the annual Tree of Light service of remembrance and contemplation was kindly hosted by St. Michaels Church. The event was well attended by town councillors and residents and the service was led by Reverend Martin Stephens with carols by the choirs All Hallows Catholic College and St. Albans School. Readings were given by the Mayor of Macclesfield and local funeral service leaders and the church was made available after the event for quiet contemplation.

Late night shopping – 15th December 2022

Late night shopping was another fantastic success. The event itself started earlier in the day to take full advantage of the tipi and the bar/food stalls and finished at a more appropriate time of 8pm. Footfall on the day increased by 1k on the previous week, and figures show that footfall between 4-7pm was the highest of the week.

The event also took place on a day when the temperature didn't get above -2 the whole day.

The tipi remained busy right up until 8pm, with food and drink traders reporting good levels of trader later into the event.

We were lucky enough to be able to welcome back Gemma Sutton and the Voicebox which is perfectly pitched at the type of event and people attending.

Chinese New Year - 21st January 2023

Residents came out in force for this year's celebrations, welcoming in the Year of the Rabbit. In the run up to the event the town council sponsored workshops in the Grosvenor Centre to make noisemakers for residents to use during the parade – scaring away the evil spirits of the previous year. These noisemakers were joined by the drummers of All Hallows School who entertained the crowd before a drumroll welcoming the Chinese dragon from the Town Hall into the crowd. The dragon led the parade of zodiac animals, created by ArtSpace, down Mill Street and into the URC for a reception of crafts, cultural education and a tasting menu of Chinese food. The event was extremely well attended with one local business owner commenting that this was their busiest Saturday since before the pandemic.

Macclesfield Lantern Parade – 18th February 2023

The first Macclesfield Lantern Parade has yet to be held on the writing of this report but preparations are well underway with multiple workshops being held around the town with drop-in sessions for members of the public being held at the Silk Museum and the Grosvenor centre as well as special workshops being taken to additional needs community groups.

We would like to thank the Town Councillors for their support, attendance and promotion of these events.

Upcoming 2023 Events

Easter in Macclesfield - Saturday 8th April

We'll be celebrating Easter and welcoming in the spring in the town on Easter Saturday. We'll be working with St. Michaels, Christ Church and ArtSpace (amongst others) to provide a variety of entertainment and activities across Macclesfield.

The King's Coronation Town Centre Tea Party – Monday 8th May

In addition to sponsoring local community parties across Macclesfield's wards we will also be hosting our own celebration in the Town Centre to recognise the coronation of the King, with live entertainment, games, activities and free tea and cake.

Macclesfield Armed Forces Day Celebration – Sunday 2nd July

We'll be marking Armed Forces Day in the Town Centre this July. Details still to be confirmed but a fun and informative day for all is planned.

- We also have quite a number of MTC supported events coming up including:
 - Bike-a-thon – 20th May
 - Party in the Pews – 27-28th May
 - Barnaby – 16th-18th June
 - Macc Pow – 2nd July
 - Pride – 15th July

6.2 Floral displays

Ansa now have the contract for the floral displays and an SLA has been signed.

The Britain in Bloom Committee have met, and Macclesfield will be entering again this year. Plus, we hope that some of the town's parks, pubs and retail shops may enter too. If anyone is interested in entering, the Town Council has a small budget to assist with the entry fees.

6.3 Public toilets

The Town Council has been listening to residents and local businesses and striving to provide toilets for public use in the town centre for many years. This has been largely hampered as the town council owns no land in the town centre.

At the Full Council meeting on 6th Dec 2022, Macclesfield Town Council approved the amount of £110,000 to go to CEC towards toilets for public use.

This will be used for a scheme to provide toilets at the indoor market, including a fully accessible changing places toilet and baby changing facilities. The scheme will commence in the summer.

6.4 Festoons

One of the trees at Park Green has died and needs to be removed. The lights will be removed prior to this and we will look at alternative trees for the lights to go on.

6.5 Tunncliffe Trail

The Assistant Town Clerk and Cllr Janet Jackson MBE carried out a walk around of the route to look at proposed locations for the artwork. It was decided that the next step would be speak to the Director of the Museums to confirm that the paintings can be used for this purpose. The Director of the Museums has requested a meeting to discuss this as well as other ways that the project can move forward.

6.6 Barnaby Parade

The Town Council has worked with Barnaby and ArtSpace to put forward a plan for a parade during the Barnaby festival, of which the dates are, 16th – 18th June 2023.

The funding is for one year as follows:

£6500 for Barnaby to Coordinate and produce the festival.

£4000 for ArtSpace to provide workshops and resources.

This amount is contained within the budget.

Action: To approve the above funding proposal.