

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 returned to South Park on the 9th June, with a fantastic turn out. Although the first few sessions were during the hot weather, it did not put people off, and Matt made sure to explain to everyone about taking drinks breaks whenever they needed to.

Sessions after that continued with around the same numbers as Matt took people through body weight exercises as well as using the equipment and public realm furniture already in South Park.

Matt had 4th August, 25th August and 1st September booked off over the school holidays, but unfortunately a quite serious injury has meant that Park Fit has not taken place over the summer holidays.

Park Fit returns to South Park on the 8th September until the beginning of October, when the venue changes to the sports hall at All Hallows to accommodate the dark nights/cold weather.

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

Update from Marc Makes Comics:

This year we hoped to not only get back on track, but also move the event forward as planned for 2020, and we achieved both things.

Attendance was up this year, and I noticed a real shift in terms of attracting the local families who knew about the event from previous years, had seen the posters around town, or just happened upon it on the day, as well as adding comic book fans both locally and from further afield (Manchester, Shropshire, London) The town hall

had close to 1000 people attend over the course of the day. One of our highlights was our LEGO battle build, where Charlie Adlard (cartoonist on the Walking Dead comic for 16 years) and Sean Phillips who has drawn Batman for DC comics amongst many things, went head to head with a team of children to build a comics themed set in one hour! Fittingly the result was a 'draw'

A packed children's area with nearly 75 children and parents in the library for Laura Howells BEANO drawing workshop.

Author and cartoonist Jim Smith not only signed his new Barry Loser book in Waterstones for visitors, he led children back to the Town Hall walking and drawing, then he visited local sights and businesses of the Town including DeJa Vu, a coffee in Proper Sound, and bought 'Goats ears' from the indoor market!

Lord Of The Pies co-owner Lindsay Mekie said "Town was busier because of MACC-POW!, we had one of our busiest days all day!"

Proper Sound co-owner James welcomed many of our guests and exhibitors and felt a noticeable surge in business to his already well-received venue.

One person commented "It's the first time I have been inside the Town Hall, how lovely it is, and how lovely to see comics, I haven't seen those since I was a child"

On Sunday we hosted 3 sold-out comic art workshops in our Room for comics studio with Jim Smith (who claimed he wants to move here) Observer comics prize winner and Phoenix comic cartoonist Tor Freeman and Manga artist Sonia Leong. Sonia's masterclass in Manga was a real hit and we plan to organise more in the coming months. The Button warehouse on Chestergate played host to The Graphic novel reading room during the day, attracting a steady flow of visitors throughout the day, some who had never been to the cafe before. We rounded the weekend off, with great attendance at Cinemac for Batman 1966 movie with over 40 tickets sold on a Sunday afternoon, and viewers stating "it was a great atmosphere, Cinemac is fabulous!"

We had incredible support for the Graphic novel reading room in the Button Warehouse on Sunday, with a constant flow of people coming in to discover the world of comics, and some visiting the cafe for the very first time. Owner Gemma totally embraced the event, creating special comics related cakes for the weekend, and offering a generous discount to those that came from the festival all weekend!

Four of our attendees over the weekend all stayed at the local B&B Sleep eat repeat, and owner Karina has supported the event since our third year, providing a great place for them to stay, and a breakfast that they couldn't stop talking about all day!

It was an incredible success and we are proud of what we have achieved not just for the town, but for comics and the creators in general. Here's to 2023!

Macclesfield Pride - 9th July

Macc Pride took place this year on Saturday 9th July, and was extremely well attended. Footfall figures show an increase of 7.5k on the previous weekend, and 10.5k pre-pandemic.

Feedback on social media was excellent, with a lot of LGBT businesses and people, feeling more accepted and happy in their town than ever before.

Local shops noted an increase in trade on the day with Greggs, Silktown Fryer and Coffee Beans completely selling out of food.

Many high street shops and businesses were included as part of the two different Pride trails, and Pride continued their relationship with the Grosvenor Centre by using an empty unit as the Pride hub.

The date has been set for Macc Pride 2023 and it will be one week later, 15th July. This is to allow Macc Pride members to attend another Pride event, and hopefully with no clash it will also increase the numbers of attendees.

South Park Centenary community picnic – Mayoral Civic event – Saturday 13th August

The Mayor's first civic event took place around the South Park bandstand and was extremely well attended. Musicians from the Macclesfield Music Centre entertained from the bandstand and free refreshments from three local businesses were handed out to more than 400 people. All elements of the day, from decorations to games to picnic blanket fabric was sourced, in-person, from Macclesfield businesses and this is something we will endeavour to replicate for subsequent events. Although it was a very hot day people were generally sensible in following the council's advice and arriving with their own sun covers, keeping to the shade and bringing plenty of water. Local vendors providing drinks and ice creams did excellent business and were very happy with the outcome of the day; both vendors showed their appreciation by voluntarily donating a portion of their days takings to the Mayor's charities. We were supported by excellent volunteers from the Town Council volunteer programme and a group of around ten participants from Reach Out and Recover who were outstanding in their help with setting up on the day. It was also a good day for the Pavilion consultation group who received more than 250 responses on the Saturday alone. We received a lot of positive feedback on the day both in-person and online with some commenting they would like to see this as an annual event.

Upcoming event dates

Older persons Day - 1st October

This year we will be supporting two events for Older Persons Day, with one being organised by Age UK: Cheshire East and one organised by MHA Communities. Both events will be focused on bringing older people together to form community bonds and will provide refreshments, activities and entertainment.

Nature Needs You Eco Summit - 8th October

Formerly known as the Welly Walk, Nature Needs You will have a new twist this year and will run hand-in-hand with the Eco-summit taking place in St. Michael's Church. Educational talks will take place in the morning in the church and will connect with interactive fun for all ages in West Park. As the event has grown over the years we will be expanding onto a new, larger pitch-site in West Park so we can accommodate extra community groups and still retain popular elements like the Storytelling Tent.

Halloween – Saturday 29th October

This year we will be holding a Halloween event in the Town Centre. The Grosvenor Centre will be playing host to the ArtSpace Crafty Crypt, we'll have face-painting, crafty projects for adults and children and walkabout acts including stilt walking scarecrows and mischievous pumpkins. Macc Youth Brass Band will be playing a selection of spooky hits and children will be encouraged to come in fancy dress as they follow our Pumpkin Trail around local businesses.

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday – 11th November and 13th November 2022

On Friday 11th November the Town Council will hold a commemoration ceremony in front of the town hall to observe the two-minute silence for Armistice Day. On Sunday 13th we will be holding the full Remembrance Sunday procession from the town hall to the cenotaph where the wreath laying and Remembrance service will be held. Quotes have been sought for a company to provide a sound system. One company is available that date and will cost £1795 for one year or £1650 for 3 years.

Action: To approve either the one year or three year deal.

Remembrance projection

Last year the projection of the Remembrance poppies across the Town Hall was extremely well received and we were keen to revisit this for 2023. Unfortunately, the building from which we projected has now been converted to flats and although at the moment empty, we have checked with the landlord and it is not an option to project from there.

Due to the size of the Town Hall and the sight lines needed for the projections, there are no other suitable buildings in Market Place (apart from Nat West which is unfortunately not an option).

We have therefore started to look at the possibility of projecting onto the Market Place, or having a river of poppies running down Church Street. A email was sent to Cheshire East to check the viability of this and in the meantime a road closure was submitted for Church Street to cover the possibility that highways may have an issue with the lights on a public highway.

Cheshire East Highways have now confirmed they do not have an issue, and a date is currently being confirmed with the projection company with regards to a site visit to clarify the final details.

Step Into Christmas

This year's Step Into Christmas event will begin at the earlier time of 10am so we can provide a full day of entertainment and festive activities to residents visiting the town centre. The Christmas lights will come on from around 3pm as dusk begins to settle and throughout the day we will have live music around the Christmas Tree and on the Silk FM stage, walkabout acts, face-painting, balloon modelling, fairground rides and more. The Santa's Grotto will take place in the Mayor's Parlour and the Father Christmas Parade will proceed through town later in the afternoon to arrive on stage at 4pm.

Tree of Light - 8th December 2022

We will be offering the Tree of Light ceremony once again this year. Around the town centre Christmas tree we will hold a contemplative ceremony of poems and music for those experiencing grief or difficulty during the festive season. We will be joined by the choirs of St Albans and All Hallows schools and the service will be led by Reverend Martin Stephens. St Michael's Church will be available for private reflection after the service.

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Late night shopping – 15th December 2022

This will be the date of the event this year. Quotes have already been received for the marquee and the event is planned to follow a similar format to last year, with a more structured format so that people know what is on and when things finish.

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 Reform Church as well as crafting and educational resources.

6.2 Floral displays

The floral displays in the town are looking wonderful and the Town Council has received lots of very complimentary and positive feedback from residents and visitors. In particular, the wild flowering on Westminster Rd has been extremely popular.

The Britain in Bloom Judge visited Macclesfield on 18th July, spending the whole day visiting various places around the town. The Town Council will attend a Britain in Bloom award ceremony on 20th October to find out the results. All of the groups in the town, residents, volunteers, Councillors and staff and of course the Rangers did a truly wonderful job.

Finally, the floral contract went out to tender at the end of July and ended on 2nd September 2022. It was advertised in the local paper, social media channels, the Town Council website and the government contract finder website.

6.3 Public toilets

Macclesfield Town Council are working hard with Cheshire East Council to provide public toilets in the town, with various feasibility studies being carried out.

It is worth noting Macclesfield Town Council funds St. Michaels church to open their toilets to the public on Treacle market day and for events.

6.4 Festoons

It was reported to us in August that one of the festoon strings on church street had been attached to a CCTV bracket. LITE have been informed and are sending an engineer out ASAP to check and rectify.

6.5 Tunncliffe Trail

We have received a response from Cheshire East Council to say that planning permission is not required if the installations have a slim profile. The Assistant Town Clerk is now trying to collate all of the historical landlord permissions before proceeding with the next stage of the project.

6.6 Barnaby Air

The Barnaby Air end of project report has been received and is attached as a separate document.

In the Service Level Agreement it was stated as follows:

To Provide the REDUX changed to Air) project as detailed in Appendix 1.

Further specific requirements:

- a.) At least one micro installation will be outside of the Town Centre.
- b.) The Community will be involved in making the installation.

A plan was provided by Barnaby in the appendix 1:

Project timeline

Date	Activity
April	Recruit co-ordinator role, securing experienced freelancer in public arts to oversee project, liaise with partners and artists, communities and residents
April September 2021	Engage with communities, residents and communities, artists and other stakeholders will identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites/ ideas or themes for public art - Local artists and community groups who will participate in project - Consultation with community and cultural partnerships - Working with the Macclesfield Cultural Forum, develop the community micro-commissions panel Apply & gain any necessary permissions for micro-commissions Develop further funding application (due September)
June 2021	Launch visual arts map of Macclesfield & public art trails (to correspond with Barnaby weekend) Install Micro-commission #1 [in partnership with Macclesfield Security in Place]
Oct - Dec	Install/programme Micro-commission #2 – exact date tbc [note this is likely to be a temporary light installation in partnership LIT Macc and Silk Heritage Trust]
Jan-Mar 2022	Install/programme Micro-commission #3 – exact date tbc [in partnership with Macclesfield Security in Place]

June 2022	Install/programme Micro-commission #4; which will be part of Barnaby visual arts trail, which will also include an exhibition to revisit the project, showcase the work, including map and artist talks
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The payments are to be made as follows (the first £5000 has been paid):

	<i>Period covered by payment</i>		<i>Monitoring deadline</i>
Instalment payable from:	Period from:	Period to:	Monitoring to be provided prior to:
30th April £5000	1st April 2021	30th JUNE 2022	30th JUNE 2022
On completion of Consultation £5000	On receipt of consultation results		