

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

Do Something Summer – July/August 2023

Every Wednesday for the six weeks of the Summer holidays MTC hosted a different free activity in the Town Centre. Despite the changeable weather all the sessions were well attended with people queueing up to take part at the 11am start-time. We took feedback via paper/online forms and in person and the reaction was overwhelmingly positive with a strong desire to see the programme return next year. Working with organisations across town we also advertised other free activities at the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, The Library and the Silk Museum with our new strategy of bollard displays and school book-bag leafleting. The Silk Museum in particular noticed an up-tick in visitors who had not previously been to the museum or attended their sessions. In addition to the activities for each of the events (except for the very rainy Chalk Art day) we set up the MTC deckchairs and Giant Deckchair in the Market Square and invited Granelli's to come and trade in the town centre – this initiative too proved very popular and created a busy and social atmosphere at the heart of the town.

Macclesfield Heritage Open Day – Saturday 9th September

Heritage Open Days is a national programme organised by the National Trust which traditionally takes place over two weeks in September. We previously entered into discussion with the Silk Museum about how to best maximise the impact of Heritage Open Days and decided to attempt to co-ordinate organisations across town to unite into one singular Macclesfield Heritage Open Day – with everyone hosting their activities on the same day to create a Fringe-festival type event. Eight organisations agreed to participate and once again we created a flyer to let people know about all the different activities which were taking place; these were distributed to the organisations taking part as well as being given out at the Do Something Summer events and the Mayor's Charity Bingo Night.

The day ended up being particularly warm and sunny for the time of year so we set up the deckchairs in the market place and had some live music to entertain the crowds. The inside of the Town Hall was extremely busy with visitors to the

Rediscover Macclesfield fair (a collection of groups, charities and societies advertising for new member and volunteers), the Made in Macc market took over the Assembly Room and reported a very successful day for their local, Macc-based traders, and there was a lot of interest in the *Macclesfield: Echoes of the Past* exhibition in the board room; a historical photographic art project.

Other organisations taking part reported a busy day with a high number of new visitors coming specifically for the HOD activities.

We would like to thank the Town Councillors for all of their support, help and attendance at recent events.

Upcoming

Nature Needs You and Eco Summit– Saturday 7th October

Nature Needs You will return to West Park this October and will be joined by the Eco-Summit, led by Councillor Thompson. Our new pitch close to the skate-park proved popular last year so we'll be setting up there again with our usual mix of story-telling, face-painting, crafting, learning and creepy-crawlies!

Autumn/Winter 2023

Spooky Saturday - 28th October

Armistice and Remembrance – 11th and 12th November

Step into Christmas - Saturday 25th November

Advent Trail – From December 1st, the theme this year is snowmen. It's a fairly easy theme that can be interpreted however the shops/business choose to do it – minimal effort, or full blown giant snowman!

Combined with the Advent Trail, the Town Council hope to work with Cinemac to have one or two free showings of the Snowman.

Tree of Light – Thursday 7th December

Twilight Market – Thursday 14th December

Looking Ahead: 2024

As we look ahead to next year we're keen to continue adding new events to the calendar whilst seeing the return of popular projects, such as Do Something Summer.

Lunar New Year falls on **February 10th** this time so we'll be celebrating that once again with the ArtSpace Zodiac Parade and events down at Park Green. This also

means that the Macclesfield Lantern Parade will shift to **January 20th**, starting slightly earlier in the day due to the earlier sunset which hopefully will mean an increase in footfall for the shops at the end of the day.

Plans are underway to host a new Macclesfield Parade and Art Festival in June, planning is still in the very early stages but we hope to host a mix of art, music and live theatre in the town centre, potentially combined with a local street food market.

6.2 Floral displays

The floral displays in and around the town have received several comments from delighted residents and visitors. In particular the wild flowering has been very well received. This year the areas wild flowered were:

- Pexhill Rd
- Queens Ave
- Sainsburys
- Section behind the bus station

The Britain in Bloom judges visited 9th August 2023, for the day.

We visited the wildflower meadows and walked through the town centre as well as visiting the following community projects.

- Macc Leisure Centre with the work by Macc Wild Network
- St Albans School
- St Peters Church with helpers from the Rossendale Trust
- Grow Macclesfield Community Allotment
- Space 4 Autism
- Silk Museum Garden

It was a great day where we were able to show the wonderful blooms, environmental projects and the communities that are involved.

The award ceremony will take place 19th Oct 2023.

6.3 Public toilets

Work has commenced on the public toilets at the back of the indoor market and should be completed by 6th October.

The toilets will include a fully accessible changing places toilet and baby changing facilities.

6.4 Festoons

The replacement festoons for Church Street have now been installed.

6.5 Tunncliffe Trail

A quote was received from a company who provide 3D sculptures to Towns. This quote totaled £27,500+ VAT which is a significant amount for something so niche.

The Town Clerk has submitted a bid for a town trail and if successful, we will focus on delivery of that project. We are also working on the Echoes of the Past project.

6.6 Barnaby

The report from Artspace and Barnaby are attached for the Barnaby parade/festival.

Next year Barnaby have informed us they will not be doing a full festival, therefore as in the events report, a summer parade/ mini festival on a Saturday will be planned for June 2024.

END OF REPORT