

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

The weather was on our side for Do Something Summer this year, so all events were able to go ahead as planned. We finished the summer with Juggling School where visitors were invited to make their own juggling balls then take part in a workshop. As usual the town came out in force and by the end of the day had made more than 280 juggling balls.

Heritage Open Day

Once again, we opened up the town hall for Heritage Open Day, with the Made in Macc market in the Assembly room and a hobby fair in the Capesthorne, highlighting local groups such as the Macclesfield Astronomy Society, Andy's Man Club and the Social Climbing Night at Substation. Boards of information about the Town Hall and vintage pictures of Macclesfield were also placed around the building for those interested in local history.

Nature Needs You

A miraculously sunny day welcomed us in West Park on 5th October for this year's Nature Needs You event. Different local organisations hosted nature-based educational activities where people could learn about local birds, bushcraft and ecology as well as trying out a ride on an e-bike with elov and toasting marshmallows on an open fire.

The Mayor of Macclesfield also attended, reading a story in the storytelling tepee, trying out the ebike and meeting some giant creepy crawlies at the Rent a Beast stall.

Looking Ahead

Christmas: Step into Christmas, Twilight Market, Christmas Tree Festival, Advent Trail

We've already started teasing our Christmas events on social media and we're looking forward to another varied festive season. Step into Christmas will kick things off on the 30th November, building on the success of last year we'll have live acts on stage throughout the afternoon, mulled wine from R&G's Beer Vault, walkabout acts, crafts with ArtSpace and HomeStead Grown will be in the Buttermarket helping people make festive buttonholes. This year Made in Macc will also be hosting a Christmas Market in the Capesthorne Room and the Mayors Parlour will again be transformed into Santa's Grotto.

We'll be working with Christ Church again on the town's Christmas Tree Festival and we expect to have record numbers of businesses taking part in our Advent Trail.

The Twilight Market will return on the 12th December with the heated tipi, local street food, mulled wine, live music and the Made in Macc market.

This year we are also supporting East Cheshire Hospice with their Light Up A Life Ceremony which will take place at the United Reformed Church at Park Green from 4pm on Sunday 8th December – attendance is free and there's no need to book ahead.

2025: January Event and Lunar New Year

After Christmas we have two events to welcome in the new year. On Saturday 18th January we'll have our Winter lights event, which is holding the place of the Lantern Parade. This will take place in Market Place and will involve lots of light up entertainment, fairground-style street food and activities.

Lunar New Year will take place on Saturday 1st February and will once again be split between the URC and the Silk Museum with the parade of Zodiac animals and the Chinese dragon heading down from the Town Hall beforehand.

6.1a Macclesfield in May Event Proposal

Please see proposal report attached.

Actions: This funding will come from the project and events budget and £4000 has been allocated for an event of this sort for next year. Therefore, the proposal to consider is for up to £4000 of funding toward the Macclesfield in May event.

6.1b Macc Pow Event Proposal

Please see proposal report attached.

Actions: This funding will come from the project and events budget and £4500 has been allocated for an event of this sort for next year. Therefore the proposal to consider is for up to £4500 of funding toward the Macc Pow event.

6.2 Floral Displays

The winter bedding has been completed in the town centre, by the Town Rangers and the barrier plants and hanging baskets by ANSA.

The Town Council's contract with ANSA was agreed in come to an end 30th November 2024. It is a 2 year contract with a possibly one year extension.

The proposal will be to extend the contract by the extra year and due to the amount of the contract this item will be on Full Council 28th October 2024,

The Britain in Bloom event will take place on 31st October, and we have 11 people attending from the Town Council, Ranger Service and the voluntary groups that participated in the various aspects of the entry. We will not know the outcome until the award ceremony itself.

6.3 Festoons

The festoon lights on Back Wallgate have been out for around a year now. This was investigated and found to be due to an electrical fault on the lamppost which supplies the festoon lights. This was reported to Cheshire East Council straight away.

The lights remain out and this has been chased.

The wall mounted streetlights that are owned and maintained by Cheshire East highways are impacted by the supply in junction box and they are currently liaising with Electricity Northwest as the cabling is not to the current British standard. They are working to come up with a solution but are unable to come up with a timescale as yet. We will continue to chase this on a regular basis.

The festoon lights on lower Chestergate (outside the Picturedrome) have also been reported as out. This is being investigated.

Action: –To consider the costing proposals in the attached report.

6.4 Christmas lights

A decision making panel has been approved by Full Council for the upcoming tender renewal for the Christmas lights provision. The tender will go out end of November to allow companies the opportunity to view our current provision. The deadline will be early to mid-February.

END OF REPORT