

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

Event	Northern Light	Lunar New Year
Footfall Week before event	7,453	8,572
Event figures	9,308	10,461
Previous year	7,854	8,483

Northern Light – Saturday 18th January

Just a week after the Christmas tree was taken down we brought a little light back to Market Place with our Northern Light event. Guests were invited to warm up with marshmallow toasting from Cheshire Falconry, a hot drink from R&G's Beer Vault stall or enjoying Christopher Marley's amazing fire show. There were unlimited rides on the 38ft Helter Skelter, close-up magic from Chris Hickey, indoor crafts from ArtSpace and, of course, the giant inflatable light-up lobster! More than 1000 people toasted a marshmallow that afternoon and we gave out more than 300 light-up yo-yos and 100 sets of bubbles to visitors.

Lunar New Year – Saturday 1st February

To welcome in the Year of the Snake we kicked off the day with Conundrum warming up the crowd in front of the Town Hall before the authentic Chinese dragon flew from the Town Hall and into the audience. Volunteers handed out fortune cookies to the waiting spectators before the dragon was joined by the ArtSpace zodiac animals and the parade started to make its way down to Park Green.

Silk Museum guests could try their hand at Tai Chi, Chinese Calligraphy and papercutting, children's crafts and samples of Green Tea as well as the chance to learn some Chinese games such as Go and Mah Jong.

Over in the United Reformed Church the rest of the parade animals also went on display and people had the chance to sample some Chinese food, including some traditional to the new year celebrations, play chopstick games and enjoy crafting with ArtSpace.

Extra notes:

A change to funding for Macc Pride

Due to the ongoing success of Macc Pride this year their funding will come directly from the Events budget rather than the grants programme. Funding has also been increased from £2000 to £3000 to help cover the need to hire an external traffic management company to safely co-ordinate the parade after the retirement of community traffic manager Alec Johnston.

Other news

The manager of Greggs in the Grosvenor Centre has requested a list of dates when the Town Council were holding events as they are so busy on event days they need to book in extra staff members.

Looking Ahead

Planning is underway for Easter in Macclesfield and we've already booked in some exciting activities for Do Something Summer. The 1261 Festival and Parade Day will take place this year on August 23rd.

6.1.1 1261 community funding

Please see attached report for consideration.

ACTION – To approve the community funding project for the 1261 festival

6.2 Floral Displays

The winter displays are complete and planning has started for the summer bedding and of course the Britain in Bloom entry.

Due to the changes expected by the Macc on Foot project (changes of planters) we have asked ANSA to complete the summer bedding for the barrier planters and the hanging baskets. The new planters will be planted up by ANSA, funded by the UKSPF fund. Once complete we can look to retendering the whole of the contract.

6.3 Festoons

We have been told by Cheshire East Council that the festoon lights as part of the shared prosperity fund are planned to be installed in early April. Hopefully by the time this meeting takes place, the work will have been completed.

6.4 Christmas lights

The Christmas lights tender is currently under consideration and discussion. The panel will report back to Full Council when the winning tender is ready to be put forward for ratification.

END OF REPORT