

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

Footfall

Event	Easter
Footfall Week before event	7,985
Event figures	9,144
Previous year event	10,993

Easter in Macclesfield

Storm Dave was forecast to bring strong winds over the Easter weekend so the decision was made to move our Easter Saturday event indoors to the Assembly Room of the Town Hall. Announcements were put out on social media to alert followers of the change and notices were put up in the town notice boards and around Market Place. We opened the town hall doors to a queue of families ready to take part in the Easter Trail, get their faces painted and take part in some hula-hooping with Lets Circus. Our walkabout act, Phileas Fogg and Passepartout in their mobile hot air balloons, chose to brave Market Place before the winds picked up and delighted passersby. The performers repeatedly mentioned how lovely Macclesfield and its residents were and how much they enjoyed their time with us.

The town-centre trail proved popular again with around 40 businesses taking part this year and more than 200 maps given out – one family travelled from Poynton specifically to come and do the trail.

1261 Festival

The 1261 Festival will be returning on Saturday 20th June. We’ve had lots of entries for the community funding and we’re exciting to be offering a wide range of activities this year. ArtSpace are once again co-ordinating the parade so if there are any community groups who’d like to walk with the parade they should get in touch with ArtSpace directly.

Other News

Do Something Summer will return for the Summer holidays with a range of different activities every Wednesday. We're looking forward to welcoming back the mobile climbing walls for the first event on Wednesday 22nd July.

6.2 Festoons

The festoon lights, funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund, were installed in April by CEC. As of the time of writing, they have not yet been formally handed over to us by CEC and remains the case, as with all of the Macc on Foot equipment.

The lights have been removed from the trees outside Gail's ready for the essential work to take place by United Utilities.

6.3 Christmas lights

We met with the electrical lighting designer from Ringway Jacobs in March. The electrician from our Christmas lights company joined the meeting to provide an up-to-date account of our lights. CEC street lighting also attended. We visited every feeder pillar so that the designer could map out exactly what we need. It will be the end of May before we receive the completed lighting design.

Most feeder pillars will need replacing with bigger pillars to accommodate a socket for our Christmas lights.

There will be no room in the feeder pillar to have a timer so we have two options. The lights can be left on constant as they were after switch on last year and they are such low energy that this option is acceptable. The other option for the future is that they could be solar activated so come on when dark. That would mean that on dull days, the lights still wouldn't come on until nighttime.

This work to replace the feeder pillars will involve drilling into some properties so all building owners affected will need to be informed. We won't know which properties will be affected until the lighting design plan is completed which is expected to be by the end of May. CEC street lighting will then be able to give us an accurate quote for the work that needs to take place. The cost is expected to be around £15,000.

As soon as we know the locations of the affected feeder pillars we will contact the building owners. When we have given them a chance to respond, if there are no issues and if the cost of the work is acceptable to council, we can instruct CEC to go ahead.

We will need to keep pressure on this project to work towards delivery before Christmas as we are reliant on building owners approving the replacement pillars and CEC street lighting carrying out the work in good time.