

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	Easter	Bikeathon/Birthday
Footfall Week before event	7,453	8,572	8,559	9,702
Event figures	9,308	10,461	10,993	10,656
Previous year	7,854	8,483	11,888	9,983

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.

Easter in Macclesfield – Saturday 19th April

We welcomed in the Spring with bubbles, hula hoops and prizes for our annual Easter event. The weather stayed dry as more than 400 visitors took part in the Town Centre Easter Trail which this year included 46 businesses.

Macclesfield Town Council 10th Birthday Party – Saturday 17th May

We celebrated a decade of the Town Council with a birthday party in the Town Hall. The main focus was the Assembly Room which was filled with display boards detailing the history of the Town Council, previous Mayors, projects and achievements. We also had some of the organisations that we support with funding such as the CAB, Silk Museum, plus CVSCE and the DIB. The Civic Society were also invited to attend, as well as BeeYou Support Hive as an organisation who received a microgrant and who have now become CIC.

ArtSpace ran a crafting session where people could create peg doll versions of the Mayor and Mayoress, or colour in Rachael with a big owl on our specially commissioned colouring sheets. ArtSpace also kindly made and donated the birthday banner and the huge birthday cake which Susan jumped out of at the end!

Marc Jackson ran a comic workshop for us. Made In Macclesfield ran a small but perfectly formed makers market, and Russ from Elov was on the decks for our kids disco. One of the key highlights for many was the cake – school cake from Baked By Bean and brownies from Dolly Daydream, who sent us a lovely email

I can't thank you enough for your ongoing support. Honestly, you and Macc Town Council as a whole are doing such a terrific job, particularly with your involvement with local businesses. It's been a really difficult month (town is so quiet!) so orders like this really do make such a difference! Thank you thank you thank you again!

Extra notes:

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

We've already booked in some exciting activities for Do Something Summer including the return of the climbing wall and a new STEM-based activity.

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 potential extra amount of community funding project for the 1261 festival

6.2 Floral Displays

Macclesfield on Foot project funded by the UK Shared prosperity fund is largely complete. Once the snagging list is complete, and we have received an agreement from CEC we will take over the maintenance. The benches and planters removed are at Commercial Rd storage (thanks to CEC) and we have distributed some back into the community already.

6.3 Festoons

The festoon lights as part of the shared prosperity fund were installed in April.

The lights outside of the Picturedrome on lower Chestergate are faulty. This fault is being looked into but it is looking like they may potentially need work to correct them.

6.4 Christmas lights

Following the tender process, LITE were recommended to Full Council to be appointed as the provider for the next 3 years. This appointment was agreed at full council on 19th May.

We conducted a site visit in early June with the lighting provider and installer. This was to identify any issues with the electricity supplies for the festive lighting as last year, a faulty column meant that some of the trees on Sunderland Street were not lit.

At the site visit, several issues were identified with faulty electrical supplies. These will need to be fixed by Highways at Cheshire East Council. The Assistant Town Clerk has emailed the issues to the lighting team and asked that they be fixed in good time.

Due to the electrical supply issues experienced in Christmas 2024, this year the lights will need to be installed earlier. Usually they are installed after remembrance, but this will not allow enough time for any issues to be resolved before our main Christmas event. We are looking at installation in early November. The lights will not be on until our Step into Christmas event but early installation will allow crews to work overnight on any issues.

END OF REPORT