

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF SERVICE, CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES

principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF SERVICE, CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES
COLIN WINTERBOTTOM, CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES MANAGER
PETER FLETCHER, OUTDOOR PITCHES AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
KATHERINE RODGERS, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To update committee on a variety of developments in sports, arts and community development and performance of the Platform Gallery.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Helping to make people's lives healthier and safer
- To ensure a well-managed Council

2 PLAY AREA UPDATE

2.1 The Council owns and manages 18 play areas. Following Councils' decision to provide a capital budget for play area refurbishment which will cover the next 5 financial years, quotes have been obtained for the first tranche of work to commence. This will involve replacement of safety surfacing and repainting of equipment in some of the play areas, to ensure the most economical use of resources, not all play areas will benefit from the investment at once.

2.2 An assessment of the play areas has been carried out and those where the safety surface is in the poorest state will be replaced first. The plan for 2023 is to replace the safety surface at the following play areas: John Smiths Longridge, Henthorn Park Clitheroe

3 EV CHARGING POINTS

3.1 There are charging points for EVs at Railway View and Chester Avenue car parks in Clitheroe, a company has been appointed to carry out a study to establish what types of charging points if any can be accommodated in the following car parks: Sabden, Ribchester, Barclay Road Longridge, Dunsop Bridge, Slaidburn, and Chipping. Once the Council has this information a decision can be taken on the type of chargers the car park can accommodate and the costs involved.

3.2 The primary issue will be the electrical supply available, which is in part what the study will determine. The reason that there are currently only two car parks in Clitheroe is due to the access to a suitable electric supply. It is anticipated the study will be completed by the end of June.

4 RV3G

4.1 It has been another good full year of operation following the issues of the previous year, (21/22) which was interrupted due to the pandemic. Over 100 Ribble Valley football teams have used the site for training and matches, plus over 150 Lancashire teams who have come to play at the site through the local leagues. More than 20 Ribble Valley schools have used the site, both directly and through the School Sports Partnership. This equates to many thousands of visits over the year, especially from the u18s age group.

4.2 The original budget targets have been exceeded, illustrating the need for such a facility and the reason why the Council chose to invest in it originally.

4.3 From September 2023, the Clitheroe Football College (CFC) is planning to operating, running a BTEC Level 3 in Sports Coaching and development for 16–18-year-olds. Several open days for the course have proved very successful and if the sign ups from young people for the course go as expected, it will be the first site that RV owns to run a F.E. course, which will offer a considerable boost to local young people to study and train locally, without having to go to neighbouring colleges.

5 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The Council is working with Consultants KKP in the production of a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough. This will contribute towards the coordinated strategic provision and improvement of facilities and help to support Council and community group applications to the relevant Sports Governing Bodies.

5.2 The scope of work will include all sports pitches, including: (Football, Cricket, Rugby, Hockey), Tennis Courts and Bowling Greens. The information collection will commence this summer season and will run through next Winter sports season with final reports expected in a little over 12 months' time.

6. RIBBLESDALE POOL

6.1 Considering the significant challenges that leisure facilities are facing with respect to high energy costs, the Pool has been able to take advantage of Sport England's Energy Support Fund which provided £5,000 to local authorities to improve the energy efficiency of sports facilities. Consultants FMG have undertaken a report which has served to highlight energy performance opportunities and identified some recommendations for improving the situation. The gas and electricity unit tariffs have increased significantly by 750% and 240% respectively which will mean the site annual energy cost is estimated to be over £337,000. The study will help to identify potential energy saving measures that can be implemented.

6.2 Some energy savings have already been introduced including LED lighting, alterations to switches and controls which reduce the energy consumption levels during non-opening times, and small reductions in water temperature settings.

6.3 The recently announced Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund will provide a total of £63.3 million to local authorities in England as a support package for public

leisure facilities with swimming pools. More than £20m is available in revenue grants to support facilities with swimming pools with increased cost pressures leaving them most vulnerable to closure or service reduction. While £40m will be made available for capital investment to improve the energy efficiency of these public facilities in the medium to long term. The application process will be assessed once it becomes available from Sport England.

7 ARTS DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Clitheroe Contemporary Arts Festival 8 – 11th June 2023.

An exciting new development that we're supporting. Working together with a variety of partners we are aiming to develop an annual Arts Festival for the area. Taking the opportunity to apply for the new Lancashire Crowdfund to gain pledges from the public and LCC to make the first event happen. The group successfully gained enough public pledges to secure the match funding from LCC meaning the event can go ahead.

- A three-day festival from 9th – 11th June 2023,
- Pre-festival participation with schools and community groups
- Curated exhibitions, installations, performances, screenings and events
- Artist led workshops, talks and classes
- Open exhibition
- Art Fair with art works for sale
- Community open air painting competition
- Legacy of public artworks for the town
- Ongoing arts projects for young people

More information can be found about what is planned at <https://www.spacehive.com/clitheroe-contemporary>. And developments are posted on Facebook CCArtsFestival and Instagram @ccartsfestival.

7.2 Draw Clitheroe 5th August 2023

Planning has begun to develop the second Draw Clitheroe event. In 2022 we invited artists and novices of all ages to join us in an array of drawing inspired activities across the town. The turnout and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Led by the Chamber of Trade multiple community partners came together bringing a variety of useful skills to create a very successful event.

7.3 Artwalk Clitheroe 26th March and 8th October

ArtWalk Clitheroe is back again this year. 6 Clitheroe galleries are open to the public on this from 11 am - 4pm. Each unique space offering something different for the visitors. ArtWalk venues are Longitude Gallery, Knowle Top Studios, Stewards Gallery, Nicky Litchfield, Platform Gallery, Atelier Arts.

8 PLATFORM GALLERY

8.1 The Gallery provides an opportunity for residents of the Borough and visitors to the area to experience a wide variety of contemporary crafts. The recent exhibitions and those planned for the year ahead are outlined below:

8.2 Platform & Function - this exhibition was an opportunity for visitors to see new developments in the world of the applied arts giving a snapshot of what's going on nationally in the world of functional craft. Working in partnership with the Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair based in Manchester, and The British Craft Trade Fair based in Harrogate the Platform Gallery was invited as a guest judge, selecting prize-winners from their exhibitors which were awarded at the highly acclaimed events, giving them the acclaimed opportunity to exhibit within this show.

8.3 Craft Open 2023 - This long-standing exhibition is always a popular one in our gallery programme amongst both the artists displaying and the visitors enjoying their delights. The exhibition is focussed on showcasing local craft talent and only artists from Lancashire and its surrounding counties are invited to apply.

As the name suggests the brief is totally open and the only requirements are that the artwork is created in a craft discipline, meaning this exhibition is always a rich diverse mix of disciplines, subject matter, and styles. Over 30 makers were selected to be in this years display with 3 makers to be awarded prizes, for their innovative ideas.

8.4 As part of last years' prize the winner was awarded the opportunity for a new ground-breaking Ribble Valley business Sairo to create a visual 3D image of the piece so that we could capture and enjoy the qualities of the work digitally. To be revealed during this exhibition the 3D version will be available to view online allowing viewers to play around with the piece by clicking on the image, turning it around, zoom in and out and explore it from all angles, letting us explore the possibilities of the digital world.

8.5 Design Nation Take Over - For this exhibition we have linked up with the pioneering Craft and design organisation, Design Nation to bring a small showcase from their northern faction to Clitheroe for the Summer.

8.6 Northern Star - Another annual exhibition to return in 2023. We hope to build upon the successes of last year. The 2023 edit will include the bestselling artists from last year with even more new work than before.

8.7 The Mix – Platform Gallery's flexible space available for hire by the community. A broad mixture of events are happening in this space over the next few months, art and craft fairs, solo artist exhibitions, an event held by Community Rail in memorial of Marjorie Birch, Ribblesdale High School's GCSE Show, printmaking workshops & craft stalls.

8.8 British Textile Biennale - An exhibition in The Mix at the Platform Gallery that promotes sustainability, explores art/craft as a regenerative force and highlights the current situation with local farmers and the production of wool. To compliment the theme of the textiles festival happening in neighbouring boroughs, looking at the environmental and human costs of the textile industry.

9. BIOFUEL TRIAL

Following the approval at Community Committee in March, the order for the biofuel has been placed and delivery is imminent. The fuel will be used in one of the refuse wagons and the transit vans used for amenity cleansing, plus the pick-ups used in grounds maintenance. It was originally envisaged that more refuse wagons could be part of the trial, however following discussions with makers of the machines, it has been decided to limit it to the latest machine.

10. SOLAR PANELS FOR THE COUNCIL OFFICES

The order has been placed for the initial survey for panels to be placed on the roof of the council offices. The study which will provide a design including how many panels can be placed on the roof and the most efficient and effective layout to maximise electricity generation, it will also assess the load that can safely be placed on the roof. Once this work has been carried out, the Council will then be able to seek quotes from companies to complete the installation. Other Council buildings which will also be considered for solar panels, include the Salthill depot and Platform Gallery.

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