

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date:
 title: GENERAL REPORT
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1 PURPOSE

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

2 RIBBLE VALLEY 3G

Currently the site is being by a used by a number of local clubs and casual users. Of the peak (evening hours) the site is 86% full on average during September 20 – April 21.

The breakdown for this usage is;

58% club bookings (Whalley Juniors, Langho, Wilpshire Wanderers, Clitheroe Wolves, Rimington, Grindleton, Waddington, Readstone).

37% casual block bookings.

5% structured coaching.

This usage is across the main pitch, and two smaller sided 3G pitches. The 9-10pm slot is difficult to fill be we continue to come up with new ways to fill these.

The demand for football is that great that the tennis court area is being used for football provision 47% of available evening slots.

During May, June and July the site benefited from being able to open up to tennis as the LTA were one of the first governing bodies to allow tennis to be played after lockdown.

The following table show information from our intelligent play system that tracks use – this only utilises the main full-size pitch, not the other areas.

	Players hours (one player using the pitch for one hour)	Total usage hours (time the pitch is in use)	Total equivalent usage hours (hours when 22 or more people are using the pitch)
October 2019	2948	179	134
November 2019	3195	148	145
September 2020	2104	120	95
October 2020	3070	154	139

The data is limited at this time as the pitches have been closed for 22 weeks during 2020 due to the pandemic.

Site Feedback

To date the site is being thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The site has a 5 star rating on google reviews.

3 GRANTS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The closing date for applications under this scheme was the end of October. The working group, consisting of Councillors Newmark, Atkinson, Alcock and Robinson and Mark Beveridge. Head of Culture and Leisure Services considered the applications received and approved the following grants.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	RECOMMENDED GRANT
Clitheroe Town Council	Installation of approx. 100 artificial trees and 30 natural trees and lights outside shops and businesses in Clitheroe Town Centre. Installation of cross street displays. Provision of 2 large trees outside Castle Gates and Library. Income from contributions = approx. £4k	£250
Chipping Parish Council	Purchase of trees, lights and festoon street lights in the village plus cost of installation.	£500
Grindleton Parish Council	Hire of cherry picker to prune village Christmas tree for health & safety reasons before decorating it.	£125
		£875

4 ARTS DEVELOPMENT 2020 ROUNDUP

4.1 Connecting Ramsgreave & Wilpshire Railway Station

Working in partnership with Connecting East Lancashire, Community Rail Lancashire and Blackburn With Darwen, the artist Karen Allerton was commissioned to help raise the profile, awareness, access and engagement with Ramsgreave & Wilpshire Railway Station. The project will support the usage of the local transport infrastructure delivered through Local Growth Funding and Local Transport Plan Investment.

Ribblesdale High School formed a pupil working group to work on the project out of school hours. The group and the artist researched, designed and delivered a live public art project together giving the pupils hands on experience in a professional situation developing their life skills for future career choices. The project also made the pupils think about how the rail network could open up future job opportunities for them as they are not restricted to their local area, as one of the pupils said they have "A ticket to anywhere". The finished pieces have been installed on the station and we are looking to having a virtual launch for all involved in 2021.

4.2 Arts Development Support

From the first Covid lockdown in March 2020 Arts Development helped on the Community Hub phoneline. I was able to continue supporting the Ribble Valley creative businesses and community groups by running a marketing campaign "Ribble Valley Arts - Creative Community" highlighting the many people that feature on the Ribble Valley Arts website www.rvarts.co.uk The site acts as a directory to the many businesses and organisations based in the Ribble Valley. We have had feedback of jobs people have acquired during lockdown directly from featuring on the site.

Support for the creative community has continued by me sharing information on funding and job opportunities, sharing local business initiatives and creative events through our mailing list and social media followers.

4.3 Isolation Art

From May 2020 the Ribble Valley community were invited to make new works of art and unleash their creativity during lock down as part of the Isolation Art project. Each week we set a new theme to inspire people to create. The weekly themes were posted on the Arts Development social media pages, Facebook @ArtsDevelopmentRVBC Twitter @RVBCArtsDev and the RVBC webpage. The public then sent us images of their finished creations that were then shown to everybody online. We received over 140 submissions, including painting, photography, poetry, textiles, drawing, sculpture and print, and we were astounded by the quality and variety of work. The project was open to all, any ability and any age it was great to give people a way to socially interact during lockdown especially if they were sheilding. At this unprecedented time of change people found they had more time to try new things, or get back to a long-lost hobby and adapt new ways to express their creativity. This project gave Ribble Valley's community the chance to connect with each other and inspire others during lockdown supporting each other's mental health during this challenging time. In August the project was celebrated in an exhibition at the Platform Gallery and September featured in the Heritage Open Days event. We're looking for other venues to take a pop-up exhibition of the artworks in 2021 to make the most of the vast body of work created.

4.4 Ribble Valley Mayors Christmas Card Competition

Every year the Ribble Valley Mayor sends out around 200 Christmas cards, this year we invited Ribble Valley school children to enter a competition to create the artwork to be used on the card. The Mayor, Councillor Stella Brunskill selected two winning designs which went to print as the official Ribble Valley Mayor's Christmas Cards. The winners also received their own pack of cards to send to their friends and family. The two winning designs 1 Primary School, 1 High School were chosen from over 100 entries of the RVBC Mayors Christmas Card competition. In addition, one design from each school that entered featured on the RVBC Arts Development social media pages to share just a handful of some of the other great entries and as a thank you to the schools that took part at such a busy time of the school year. The winners were Andrew Allen, Year 6, Thorneyholme Primary School, Dunsop Bridge & Betty Waddington, Year 10, Ribblesdale High School, Clitheroe.

5 RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PUBLIC ART

5.1 Ribble Valley Sculpure Trail at Brungerley Park and Cross Hill Nature Reserve

Working with partners the Wildlife Trust and The Friends of Brungerley the annual maintenance survey has been undertaken of the sculptures in the park to form a maintenance plan for 2021. It was found that one wooden sculpture had to be removed, it was one of the very first pieces to be installed in the park over 20 years ago so it had lasted above and beyond what had been expected, due to the ongoing maintenance it had received.

5.2 Labyrinth in Clitheroe Castle Grounds

The paths on the Labyrinth (installed in 2006) were last maintained in 2016, due to constant use it now needs further maintenance. Quotes are being received to plan work for 2021.

5.3 Community Rose Garden in Clitheroe Castle Grounds

All pieces surveyed to form maintenance plan for 2021.

5.4 John Smiths Orienteering / Nature / Sculpture Trail – Longridge

A survey of the sculptures will be undertaken in early 2021 to form maintenance plan.

5.5 PLATFORM GALLERY AND VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE 2020 ROUNDUP

5.6 Platform and Function: 20 January to 21 March 2020.

Craft Open 2020: 11 April to 28 June 2020

Cancelled due to Covid Closure and moved to 2021. The Platform Gallery's annual exhibition, known for highlighting the wealth of talented craft makers surrounding the Platform Gallery. Connecting visitors with local contemporary makers and their crafts. Awards will be presented for a Selectors' Prize, Ribble Valley Prize, Best Newcomer Prize & the People's Prize. All accepted applicants were transferred to 2021 with no loss of income and the extended time given for applications means that we are able to aim for a bigger wider range of work in the exhibition in 2021.

Connecting Crafts: 13 July to 19 September 2020

Cancelled due to Covid Closure and moved to 2021. An exhibition which connects two titans of Crafts, Printmaking and Ceramics. To demonstrate and celebrate the range of styles from the traditional to the innovative. Established artists who are experts in their respective areas are coming together in this inspiring collaboration.

This exhibition is bringing together two important organisations across the North West and the Craft world, the NPA (Northern Potters Association) and Ten Strong Artists, (established at the Print studio Hotbed press in Salford) the spokesperson for this is Diana Moss who Gallery Supervisor Andrea Westall (AW) met whilst finding artists for the Print exhibition in 2019, this is extending our reach of visitors within the wider area of Lancashire and Manchester.

Isolation Art: 1 August – 29 August 2020

The first exhibition at the Platform Gallery after four months of being closed for lockdown. Over 140 artworks from the online Ribble Valley community. 9 themes resulted in very, varied and personal responses to how the Ribble Valley community have responded to this extraordinary time during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Guiding you to the best of British craft talent this winter. Showcasing the best of British making, Northern Star provides inspiration for that perfect handmade gift or treat. Join us as we celebrate creativity this Christmas season. This exhibition has utilized some of the collaborations and links made by the Gallery Supervisors AW and Jacklyn Shackleton (JS) to the organisations Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair and the British Craft Trade Fair by introducing new makers to the Gallery for 2020.

6 EVENTS AND ROOM HIRE

All room hire and events were cancelled for 2020 including art and craft stalls, community exhibitions and workshops and Clitheroe Artwalk days.

7 OTHER

Many staff were deployed to the Community Hub in both lockdowns and then continued to work on the Hub roles when back in the Gallery.

8 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

8.1 Note the contents of the report.



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