

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 15 OCTOBER 2024
title: GENERAL REPORT
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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update committee on a variety of developments across Community Services.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Creating flourishing, healthy, and happy communities.

2. UPDATE ON PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Councils Corporate Plan was agreed at Policy and Finance Committee in April 2024. A report setting out the priorities for Community Services for the coming year was presented to committee in May 2024. Below is a short update on progress to date against these priorities:

- a) Waste Regulations and Simpler Recycling - A Decision report is included on this agenda to agree the future model for food waste collection. Food waste collection is the priority and further reports will be presented in the new year covering commercial waste collections and general improvements to the refuse service.
- b) Swimming Pool and Leisure Provision. A report is included in the agenda for this meeting providing an update and proposed next steps.
- c) Museum Review – A report is included in the agenda for this meeting providing an update and proposed next steps.
- d) Castle Grounds – A report is included in the agenda for this meeting providing an update and proposed next steps.
- e) Delivery of the Capital Programme - The Council has its largest capital programme for some years and Community Services are delivering the schemes. An update on the Salthill Play Area scheme and UKSPF schemes are provided in the report. We are awaiting final funding confirmation for the installation of solar panels at Council Offices and a report covering the Castle Grounds Scheme is included on this meeting's agenda.
- f) Grant awards – The Recreation and Culture, Sports and Arts Excellence Grants have been launched and the closing date is the end of November. The Voluntary Organisation Grants will launch following this closing date. Information for grant applications is available on the council website.

3. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) SCHEMES

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is overseen by Policy and Finance Committee, however a number of schemes taking place are improving sites that are managed or

maintained by Community Services. Below are the key updates relating to these schemes.

- a) Longridge Pump Track. A final tender has been accepted for the Pump Track at Kester Lane and consultation has taken place with residents. The project has been submitted for planning and an objection received by Sport England requesting the inclusion of fencing between the Pump Track and the football pitch. This is being worked through and the scheme is still on course for completion this financial year.
- b) Events Space at Longridge – An open space design consultant has been identified to design the works and then the physical works can be procured.
- c) Castle Street – Castle Street upgrade works, a joint venture between Ribble Valley Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, have been designed to improve the aesthetics and make Clitheroe town centre a more attractive place. The works are complete, and the road is now open to traffic. The scheme has been well received.
- d) Discussions are taking place regarding Market Place and possible improvements to this section. The road has been recently resurfaced on this section, however we would like to see further improvements to the pathways.
- e) Clitheroe Market - A final scheme has been agreed for the market, tenders received, and a contractor appointed. Discussions are now taking place on the timing of the works with traders.

5. EV CHARGING POINTS

As part of the Rural Prosperity Fund, we have overseen the installation of a double charging point at four car parks, namely Chipping, Sabden, Slaidburn and Ribchester. All sites are now connected and the chargers are being used.

6. PLATFORM GALLERY

The recent inspired by nature exhibition has just ended its run, which proved to be very popular and generated good sales for the gallery and the artists who had work on display.

A programme of activities was staged on Sundays during the summer in the gallery, this included photography workshops and needle felting sessions, they were well received by residents and visitors alike and added to the range of attractions in the town during what is traditionally a quiet day in the town.

A recent art walk day went well in collaboration with other galleries in the town, the footfall for the day was excellent and continues to build on this popular network of businesses in the town.

The Northern Star exhibition will be next one to open in the gallery, with many pieces for purchase in the run up to Christmas, which is an important period for all retail operators. The Gallery gives people the opportunity to buy a range of unique and different presents throughout the year and this offer is always popular especially in the important end of year period.

Gallery staff are already planning for the next exhibition following the North Star one, with staff attending various exhibitions and trade shows to develop new ideas and artists for the New Year.

7. SALTHILL PLAY AREA

The work to redevelop the site commenced on 23rd September and has progressed well despite the adverse weather conditions experienced in recent weeks. The old equipment has been removed, and the new pieces have been installed.

A slight change to the plan was made with the zip wire and flat swing set being installed alongside the fitness piece higher up on the field, to separate it away from the pieces designed for smaller children.

Once the work is completed, a new path will replace the existing one which has become overgrown and inadequate for access, that will run from the entrance off Lincoln Way to the two new areas where the equipment has been installed. In addition, a new football goal will be installed where young people have a kickabout area alongside the new play area, that will replace the rusty old one that is there.

Three of the new pieces of equipment are specifically designed to be fully accessible for all children irrespective of disability, with a wheelchair accessible roundabout and multiplay, plus an adapted seesaw.

8. CASTLE MUSEUM

The museum reports a busy summer supported by a varied events programme. Highlights include the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Festival of Archaeology in July with eight community events over the festival period from 11 July to 27 July. Events included talks, archaeology tours, an archaeology festival hub day, junior workshops, workshops for adults. Partners included community, professional and academic archaeologists, local history societies, Portable Antiquities Lancashire & Cumbria plus colleagues from Lancashire Archives, Conservation and Collection and Clitheroe Library.

Popular August family-friendly events included Knight School and A Day of Knights with the Silver School of Arms. Lancashire Adult Learning continue to deliver free courses on site with more to follow in the New Year. September saw the return of the Clitheroe Clog Fest Day of Dance and Lancashire & Cheshire Clog Competitions with the Castle as the main hub. As part of the festival the museum opened a new exhibition in the Steward's Gallery called, "Wooden Soles, Lively Souls," which celebrates the history and heritage of clogs and clog dancing.

9. FREE CHRISTMAS PARKING

As with previous years, the Council will be offering free parking on every Saturday in December to encourage Christmas trade in the town.

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