

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**05 October 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA GAY - CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, WELLBEING AND CULTURE**

For the period July to September 2022

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters - Leisure**

##### **Leisure Centres**

July and August are not usually peak months for leisure centre usage; however, we have recorded excellent results in terms of the visits to the 6 facilities.

There were 42470 visits across the 6 sites in July and then 45038 in August including an amazing 19250 visits to The Reef. This is the first time we have seen a facility achieve more than 19k visits in one month, a fantastic achievement for our new facility.

The cost of utilities obviously remains a concern for Everyone Active (EA) and we are communicating on this matter.

##### **Countryside**

The team have reported a very busy summer in terms of visitors to our woodland sites, particularly at Holt Country Park. As always, this was supported by ranger led events across the summer, which this year were unfortunately not as well attended as previously. We think that this may have been because the changes in the wider leisure team in recent times have affected preparations for our summer events. It should be noted that we do not see this as a long term issue and we will be working on the best way to avoid similar problems in the future. Halloween events are currently being planned. Finally, our visiting GoGo Mammoth will be leaving the park next week following the conclusion of BREAK's County wide trail.

##### **Beaches**

The Safer Seaside roadshow visited 3 of the 4 planned locations across August; unfortunately the visit to Mundesley was cancelled because of poor weather. These events were met with real enthusiasm by those who came to see us. Both locals and visitors were very complimentary that the Council would put on such an event and most people learnt something they did not

know. We were joined by the RNLI for this project and talks are underway to develop this further next year to include even more external agencies.

We have been working hard on the ongoing issues seen across North Norfolk regarding Jet Ski use. We recently set up a meeting with several key stakeholders, including the Police, the RNLI, NNDC, The Coastguard and others to discuss how we best deal with the issues we have been seeing. This was extremely positive and further discussions are planned.

### **Health and Wellbeing/Sports Development**

North Norfolk District Council is supporting Cromer Lawn Tennis and Squash Association (CLTSA) with a number of projects, including promotion of their Pickleball sessions, Sustainability and making links with other local organisations. CLTSA is putting on an Open Day for NNDC staff to try the facilities, for which 20 staff are currently signed up.

The first Reef Super Sprint Triathlon is set to take place on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Events of this nature have previously been held at Victory and there is a wish to create a series of events across the three leisure centres should this one be a success. The event is being jointly organised between NNDC and EA.

The Locality Officer has visited five BNHF (*Big Norfolk Holiday Fund*) provisions (EP Youth, Nomads, Camp Beaumont, Everyone Active Stalham and North Walsham) to assess the provision and provide feedback. He is working closely with the providers to help work on areas of need as well as look to increase provision within North Norfolk where it is most needed.

Through the Together Fund we have worked with Yendell's in North Walsham to secure funding (£1200) to support the Healthier Me project. We are now working closely with Birchwood Surgery to attract the required participants to enable the programme to start. We plan for this to be a pilot which could be replicated across North Norfolk.

We are also working with four other organisations to support them with the application process to secure funding through the Together Fund. These include;

1. Playing for Cake- A singing support group who help people suffering from long covid- applying for £3265
2. Stalham Swans- Female mental wellbeing support group who are applying for £2200
3. Nancy Oldfield Trust- Water sport activities for disadvantaged groups who are applying for £1500
4. Everyone Active- Activity for seniors amount to be confirmed.

### **Active NoW**

Sean attended the Active NoW workshop and has taken the lead for the project for the North. He has started up a task and finish group which will develop our

plan on how to spend the £12k budget to best support provision in the North and he has also address the North Norfolk Health and Well Being Partnership.

### **Pier Pavilion**

Openwide are concerned about the uptake for the summer and Christmas shows. As of this week (5<sup>th</sup> September) both were roughly 1/3 down on bookings compared to the same period in 2019. Overall including concerts and other shows they are 20% down. Away from the theatre they reported a good year in the bar but a poor year in the Tides Restaurant. They have been significantly impacted by the national problem of staff shortages in the hospitality sector.

Works to refurbish the bar area and toilets are still on course to take place in early 2023.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Following a review of this year's Mammoth Marathon it has been agreed that the Mammoth Marathon will return in 2023. The organisation of this will begin soon.

## **3 Meetings attended**

In addition to briefings and regularly scheduled meetings within the Council, I attended the raising of the Green Flag at Holt Country Park on August 11<sup>th</sup>.