

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 December 2023

COUNCILLOR WITHINGTON - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND LEISURE

For the period November to December 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Leisure Contract

Participation remains strong across the six facilities the most recent figures indicated that there were 43212 visits in October.

The final details are being finalised for the handing over of Stalham Sports Centre to the Synergy Trust to operate. The locality officer is working with Trust exploring the options and opportunities for community use and support.

Nearly £10 million pounds of funding for the Fakenham Sport and Leisure Hub has been announced in round 3 of the Governments the Levelling Up fund. The benefits to health and wellbeing of this improved facility at Fakenham including improvement gym provision, a swimming pool and 3G pitch will be far reaching across our communities in the west of the District.

Countryside

Team are working through their planned practical management work at all sites in line with our felling licences. These are issued by Forestry England and allow the team to manage the woodlands in line with our service objectives.

5 Christmas events are taking place at Holt Country Park this December – 2x wreath making workshops, a first ever Santa Paws event, which has sold out in advance and 2 days of traditional Santa Trails for families.

Beaches/RNLI

Water quality classifications were released on 1st December, and we are pleased to announce that East Runton has been upgraded back to 'Excellent'. This means that NNDC will be able to apply for four Blue Flag Awards and two Seaside Awards for 2024. Applications are due in by 22nd January. In order to apply for a seaside award the water quality at the location must be deemed to be of good quality, in order to apply for a blue flag the water quality must be deemed excellent. Both the seaside awards and blue flag are judged on a range of criteria which we must satisfy in

addition to the water quality, all sitting under the headings of Environmental Education and Information, Environmental Management, and Safety & Services

Markets

A Christmas market was held as an addition to the traditional Saturday market in Sheringham on December 9th. Designed to support all year-round traders by bringing new people to the site this 'bolt on' market. Publicity for this event was seen as very positive for the town. Traders despite the difficult weather conditions were also positive and looking to attend future themed markets. Stallholders also expressed an interest in becoming part of the regular market. Following the positive response to this event the Markets team will now look to the feasibility of developing a number of similar themed markets throughout 2024.

Foreshores

Recent storms and high tides have seen some of our promenades damaged. Steps and railings were damaged in Cromer and Sheringham, and some surface damage also occurred. The team have worked closely with Property Services to review and repair this damage.

Physical Activity Development

As part of Open Schools Fund all 9 schools are now delivering their programmes. These target Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, lower socio-economic groups, BAME and culturally diverse groups to enable them to be active.

Christmas Big Norfolk Holiday Fund (BNHF) will run on 21st & 22nd Dec, and 2nd & 3rd Jan, with 14 providers taking part in North Norfolk.

Summer figures for BNHF in relation to North Norfolk are now available and are as follows:

- Capacity (places available) 4342
- Places booked 3005
- Places attended 2465
- Number of BNHF children 867

Cromer 3G pitch project is progressing well with stage 3 of 7 now underway. Target date for application remains as October 2024.

Pier Pavilion Theatre

The Pier's strong year continues and following a successful summer the sales for Christmas are up 32% on the same time last year, and only 5% down on 2019.

This year's Christmas show runs from Nov 25th to Dec 30th, with shows resuming in February 2024.

3 Meetings attended

LSAP Dementia and the elderly
Norfolk Coastal Forum
Portfolio holder meetings : Leisure, Customer Service and ArtsCulture
and heritage
Visit North Norfolk Conference
Sheringham Sports Association
Experience Sheringham
Cromer Arts Space
Sheringham Little Theatre
Sheringham Christmas Market