

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**January 2022**

***\*\*Please note this report was omitted in error from the agenda for 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting of Full Council\*\****

**COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA GAY - CABINET MEMBER FOR Leisure, Wellbeing & Culture**

For the period up to end of 2021

### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

#### **Leisure Centres**

We are very pleased to report that with the new Reef Leisure Centre opening on Tuesday 30 November, membership sales have rocketed with over double the amount of participants signing up compared to a typical month.

The Council has received some fantastic feedback regarding the new facility praising the Council for its design compared to the ageing Splash facility which was demolished earlier this year. The early demolition benefitted the project, as it enabled the Council to open The Reef and the car park as one whole facility rather than having a construction compound at the back of the site.

#### **Pier Pavilion Theatre**

The Christmas Pier Show had its opening night on Saturday 27 November. Early reviews are excellent, with some reporting that it is the best Christmas Show ever. The current visitor numbers (tickets booked) are indicating in excess of the 64% pre-Covid capacity figure that was achieved during this year's Summer Show.

#### **Beaches**

The Council would normally receive confirmation of the water quality classifications in early November, in order to apply for our six Blue Flags. However, due to a change in the way that the Environment Agency process these results, these classifications will not be released until the week commencing 17 January 2022. Officers are quietly confident that the Council will retain these Blue Flags for yet another year.

#### **Countryside**

The Countryside team are already working hard to ensure that we continue to improve the three facilities (Holt Country Park, Sadler's Wood and Pretty

Corner Woods), and our offer, in order to retain the Green Flag awards next year.

Work is progressing well on our sensory garden which we aim to complete early in the new year.

The team continue to work with the residents of Thwaite Common to manage the site, to organise and agree grazing. A community drop in session will take place at the end of January to increase the awareness (to residents) as to how we manage the common.

### **Mammoth Marathon**

Following the two postponements of the Mammoth Marathon due to Covid, the team is now actively engaging with all stakeholders, to put in place arrangements for next year's event. The Marathon, which is the only one in Norfolk, will take place on Sunday 15 May 2022.

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

There will be four volunteer tree planting days taking place in December, two at Holt Country Park and two at Pretty Corner Woods

There are two Father Christmas Trails taking place at Holt Country Park on 20 and 21 December respectively. We are pleased to report that both events have sold out, enabling 239 children and 206 adults to visit Santa with their lists.

## **3 Meetings attended**

In addition to meetings of the Sheringham Leisure Project Board and other regularly scheduled meetings, I have attended The Reef on November 23rd and November 30th.