

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet
Date: 05 April 2022
Subject: Community and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder
Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Patel

Recommending:

That the report of the Community and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community, Culture & Wellbeing

RideLondon

CCW are implementing a comprehensive Activation Plan to maximise the health and wellbeing benefits of the forthcoming RideLondon weekend. Activities on offer include an expanded Cycling 4 Health programme across the district, Bikeability sessions for local children, family and women-only bike rides and bike maintenance workshops.

In partnership with Active Essex, local schools will receive Activation Packs to encourage pupils to get involved in the cycling festival itself and Places Leisure are facilitating competitions, challenges and cycling themed activities in the district's Leisure Centres.

Community Engagement staff are working in partnership with Epping and Ongar Town Councils and Community Champions to organise fan-zones over the weekend itself. Plans involve stalls, music, arts & crafts and fun activities to create a real buzz. Community groups are being encouraged to get involved.

Event organisers, London Marathon Events, will shortly open its London Marathon Charitable Trust to local Third Sector organisations in Epping Forest which inspire activity. During the event's time in Surrey (2013 to 2019), nearly £5 million was granted to a wide range of organisations in the local community.

RideLondon will take place on 28th and 29th May. Full details of the routes are available via the LME website at www.ridelondon.co.uk

Limes Farm Community Engagement

A Community Café established by CCW in The Limes Centre in Chigwell is now being fully managed by local residents. Regular guest speakers and partner organisations drop into the café including, most recently, the Whipps Cross Hospital regeneration consultation team.

Working with community, 500 trees have been planted on the estate, including a special Jubilee tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

The £8,966 funding secured via the BBC has been fully utilised; a community football programme has commenced in partnership with Colebrook Royals FC and support will be given to build capacity and sustainability through offering training and qualifications to local volunteers. Work on the rainbow path leading to the play area is underway and the Community Association will utilise the remainder of the funding on Jubilee celebrations for residents.

Children`s activities in the Civic Offices

During February Half Term CCW delivered children`s workshops in the café space at the Civic Offices. All sessions were fully sold out with 180 children participating over the week. The team received excellent feedback and many compliments about the venue.

Youth Council elections

34 candidates stood in the recent Epping Forest Youth Council elections. CCW staff worked with local secondary schools to ensure the elections ran smoothly and fully replicated the adult voting experience. The count was held in the Civic Offices on 18 March and the election results were formally announced by the Chairman on 22 March.

A tour of the Houses of Parliament has been organised for retiring Youth Councillors by the MP`s office. This had previously been put on hold during lockdown. The new EFYC cohort will visit at a later date as part of their induction.

Youth Activities Map and River Stort clean-up day in Roydon

The online Epping Forest Youth Activities map has been updated and now shows information on 64 groups and activities for young people to join. Following the recent Youth Conference, which was themed around climate action, the refreshed map now also includes 17 nature reserves.

Also in response to the Youth Conference and the Blue and Green Strategy, Youth Councillors will work alongside the River and Canal Trust and Canalability to clean up a part of the river in Roydon. The day will be sponsored by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Funding success for Epping Forest District Museum

The Museum has been successful in securing £120K from Arts Council England for the ‘Greater in Spirit, Larger in Outlook’ Project. The project will look at the ethnographic collection at the Museum to better understand and interpret the story around its origins, the Buxton family of Warlies and the interpretation of these items in the Museum. The project funding will include the recruitment of staff to specifically support the project, co-curation projects with source communities, engagement work and activities, training and support for Museum staff. As part of this project the Museum will create an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan to ensure the Museum and collections are open and welcome to all, as well as participating in national campaigns such as Black History Month.

An additional £1,200 has been secured from SHARE Museums East to look at the environmental impact of the building to support the Council`s wider initiatives and action plan around this topic.

Since opening on 29th January, the ‘Georgie Meadows: Stitched Drawings’ exhibition has attracted over 1000 visitors to the Museum. A new contactless donation point has been established to enable visitors to support exhibitions in an easy, accessible way.

The Museum education service continues to be in high demand with schools. In person sessions at the Museum have been taking place every Thursday as well as sessions in schools and virtual delivery. The past 12 months has seen over 7000 pupils engage with the education programme.