

Subject:	Community Projects and Partnerships Update Report	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	27 th November 2019
Report of:	Communities Team	Portfolio Holder:	Communities and Customers
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	Yes/No	Attached: Yes/No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION
1.1	That Cabinet notes the content of this report.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To update members on progress made on a number of key community projects and partnerships.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A clean and green Rossendale:** our priority is to keep Rossendale clean and green for all of Rossendale's residents and visitors, and to take available opportunities to recycle and use energy from renewable sources more efficiently.
 - **A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth:** our priority is to ensure that we are well connected to our residents, key partners and stakeholders. We want to make the most of every pound we spend and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make the resources we do have, work harder for us.
 - **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The report is for information. Specific risk issues for individual projects are dealt with in specific reports on each project as required.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Communities Team manages, co-ordinates and supports a number of community projects and partnerships.

5.2 Event Support

The Communities Team continues to support events across the Borough, including Northern Grip, Waterfoot Wakes, Rossendale 60s Festival and Round the Hills Walk. The team has supported Bacup Now to deliver Christmas, Easter and Summer events in Bacup Town Centre, and has supported events in Rawtenstall Town Centre. Plans are underway for Christmas lights switch on and market events in the borough. In September the Haslingden Street Fair was relaunched after several years' absence with support offered by the Communities Team to a new group of volunteers and local traders. The event attracted around 2000 people, and a new community group, 'Haslingden's Happening' has been

established to develop other town centre events. The Communities Team also supported the children's Earthquest event in Stubbylee Park, part of the Pennine Prospects Walk and Ride Festival in September.

5.3 Community Awards

Following on from the success of the Living Well, Living Better awards in June 2018 the council wanted to recognise the contribution of the voluntary, community and faith sector in Rossendale and their staff and volunteers. Councillors are all too aware of the effect that cuts to public services have had on the sector and how much work has been picked up by local organisations and volunteers.

Nominations for the awards closed on 27th September and there was a great response from residents with over 120 nominations submitted. There are 6 categories including young volunteer of the year, community event of the year and outstanding contribution to Valley life. Nominations have been judged by a panel including councillors and supported by the Communities team. Shortlisted nominees are invited to attend the awards event at the Riverside, Whitworth on 14th November where there will be a buffet, entertainment and presentation of awards by the Mayor.

5.4 Stubbylee Masterplan and Stubbylee Hall

The work on the delivery of the Stubbylee Masterplan that has led to major improvements in both Stubbylee and Moorlands park, Bacup, is coming to an end. In August the new play area was opened, which was funded through external grants of £30k from the Lancashire Environment Fund and £50k from Viridor, applied for by Bacup Pride and Newground, with a small contribution from RBC.

After a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Resilience Fund by Valley Heritage working with RBC, £54k has been secured for a project to look at a possible future use of Stubbylee Hall. The project includes conditions surveys, bat surveys, legal advice on the covenant, archiving documents stored at the hall, and training for partner organisations and RBC staff.

5.5 Love Parks

The successful 'masterplan' model is to be rolled out in a 'Love Parks' project that will begin with consultations and the development of a masterplan for Edgeside Park in Waterfoot, and Victoria Park in Haslingden. The aim of the Love Parks project is to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of local people of all ages, and to ensure the parks are a community asset and focus and enhance a sense of belonging. The masterplan will focus on more than the physical aspects of the parks, and will also include events, activity sessions etc.

The Council is currently working with Newground to develop the masterplan for Edgeside Park including public consultation and engagement, development of the masterplan with costings and an appraisal of funding options.

5.6 Centenary Fields

Centenary Fields is an initiative led by Fields in Trust in partnership with the Royal British Legion, aimed at securing recreational spaces in perpetuity in honour of the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War 1. In Rossendale Fields in Trust have been working with the Communities team to identify local sites. As a result 6 sites are currently being designated:

- Stacksteads Peace Garden
- Trickett Park, Waterfoot,

- Helmshore Memorial Gardens/Snig Hole
- Haslingden Greenfield Gardens.
- Library Gardens, Rawtenstall
- Whitworth Memorial Park.

Work to designate the sites is almost complete, and an official launch will take place at one of the sites later in the year.

5.7 Holiday Hunger

Following the issue of ‘holiday hunger’ being raised at Overview and Scrutiny, the Communities Team put together a pilot project over the school summer holidays. Working with 6 schools and community and voluntary groups in Rossendale, different models of provision were piloted. The project, which was funded through grants, provided vital support for many families who would otherwise have struggled to provide food and activities for their children over the school holidays. The project directly supported 50 families and over 100 children, with additional funding support provided to other holiday provision in the borough.

5.8 Community Partnerships

In 2018/19 it was agreed to provide additional £15K funding to community partnerships, from the legacy of the Living Well Living Better funding, to commission against their own local priorities. Each partnership carried out consultation within its membership and within local libraries to identify what was particularly important to people in Haslingden, Rawtenstall, Bacup and Whitworth.

In Bacup and Rawtenstall activities for young people was a key priority, particularly during the school holidays. An audit of existing activities for young people revealed that there was little, if any, universal provision. A specification was drawn up and expressions of interest sought. In the Rawtenstall area, the White Horse project was awarded funding to deliver additional activities during the holidays in the Waterfoot area and the Unity Centre to deliver an art/multi faith project working with Arty Party, a local community organisation. Both projects have provided an evaluation of their projects.

In the Bacup area it was agreed to use the funding for a) equipment for a new junior football club being in partnership with Bacup Cricket Club and b) to help towards re surfacing of the tennis courts in Stubbylee Park.

In Whitworth the partnership has supported the development of Whitworth Youth to provide extra activity sessions for local young people and the Friends of Whitworth Library who have developed the library into a focal point for community activity in Whitworth.

In Haslingden the partnership decided to focus on tackling loneliness and social isolation by producing a series of newsletters giving details of local groups and events, and by providing four community notice boards.

5.9 Haslingden Environment Group

This group was established to bring together several groups from the Haslingden area that were working independently to improve the area, or had aspirations to do this. The group has developed a formal plan showing what they can achieve by working together to improve the centre of Haslingden. This has led to many ‘spin off’ projects including the improvement of a local grave yard site, a Haslingden ‘sunflower competition’, the sharing of resources,

knowledge and funding, and the development of the new Street Fair group.

5.10 Children's Partnership Board

The Hyndburn, Ribble Valley and Rossendale Children's Partnership Board is administered by the Communities Team with funding from Lancashire County Council. The partnership aims to ensure that all partners are working together to deliver positive outcomes for children, families and young people. In July the Communities Team coordinated a well attended and successful workshop for partner organisations that looked at preventing early deaths in children under the age of 1.

5.11 CCTV

The project to upgrade the public space CCTV in Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup town centres is nearing completion. 20 new or replacement cameras have been in place for several months providing much better quality footage for the police, who have direct access to the CCTV footage from the Police station in Waterfoot. All the cameras are networked and in the process of being linked to the CCTV hub in Blackburn from where they can be live monitored when required and easily accessed by the Police.

5.12 Neighbourhood Charter

The team is currently developing a Neighbourhood Charter targeted at local residents. The Charter will explain who delivers what local services, how issues can be reported, and what residents can do to help improve neighbourhoods In Rossendale. The charter will be published as a leaflet and poster.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Each project has had the financial implications separately assessed and where applicable funding identified.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 No additional comments. Matters requiring decision will be reported separately.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 The work of the Communities Team contributes to all 3 of the Council's Corporate Priorities, in particular A Proud, Healthy and Vibrant Rossendale.

Consultation and community engagement is built into all of the projects and partnerships above, many of which are delivered in partnership with community groups and residents.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 For members to note progress made on a number of community projects and partnerships.

No background papers