

**Welcome to Gedling Borough**



**GEDLING**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

*Healthy, Green; Safe and Clean*

**Selection of Outcomes achieved  
during  
Quarter 4 2010/11**

## Theme: A place of safe and strong communities

- **New taxi licence plating system** - A new taxi plating system was introduced in the New Year by the Licensing Section to help prevent malicious tampering of the plate and by its improved design help promote passenger security and safety. A safety guide for passengers produced by the Licensing Office called "The Safe Ride Guide" is available on the council's web site and from the Civic Centre. The guide contains useful information for the public for spotting unlicensed taxis and for protecting themselves when looking for a taxi, especially at night or when going home alone.
- **Improved process for dealing with Laser licenses** - Staff from the Food/Health and Safety service have worked with officers across the county to help control the use of lasers and intense pulsed lights for cosmetic non-surgical uses such as hair removal, tattoo removal and skin resurfacing using powers in the Notts County Council Act 1985. This follows the loss since April 2011 of previous controls operated by the Care Quality Commission. Officers have completed training in both the health and safety aspects and use of such equipment and have produced county wide licence application forms, guidance, inspection forms and licence conditions to ensure businesses operate safely in the future.
- **Improved Community Safety** - Public Protection served an ASBO on an individual in Netherfield to address serious antisocial behaviour.

## Theme: A place that contributes to a vibrant and prosperous Greater Nottingham

- **Arnold Health Centre proposals** – Development Control have been involved in extensive pre-application discussions on the Arnold Health Centre proposals, resulting in a public consultation exercise and the submission of a planning application.
- **Helping Local Businesses** - The inaugural South Nottinghamshire Biz Ex event took place in February 2011. Run in partnership with Rushcliffe and Broxtowe Borough Councils and Nottinghamshire Business Venture this free event was attended by over 230 businesspeople from around the County. The event offers opportunities for networking and business development and following this success, more are planned to take place in 2011/12. The next event takes place 24<sup>th</sup> May at Richard Herrod Leisure Centre.
- **Improved Engagement with businesses** - A new business section of the website has been established to provide relevant and up to date information to our businesses. Also a dedicated mailing list was set up to provide regular updates on projects and initiatives, with over 120 Gedling businesses subscribing so far.

- **Successful introduction of Arts and Craft fairs** - These have been established in both Arnold and Mapperley, taking place in October, November 2010 and March 2011- the events were well attended in both shopping areas and are planned to continue throughout 2011/12 with other potential sites being identified across the borough.
- **High Shopper satisfaction levels** - Shoppers were surveyed across our main shopping areas in the borough as part of new annual benchmarking activities, with 95% of people stating that they were satisfied with their visits to the towns. 90% of those surveyed said they feel safe in our towns during the day, whilst convenience and ease of walking around were considered the best aspects of the centres.

**Theme: A place where people are treated fairly and have an opportunity to get involved**

- **Rockschool** - The Gedling LOCO Rocks sessions provided a successful transition of the previous My Left Foot project from Redhill Youth Club to the Netherfield LOCO Centre. A partnership between Gedling Borough Council, County Youth Arts and Notts County Council provided weekly sessions between October 2010 and January 2011 for young people to access support in playing, writing and recording music, as well finding out about other careers and opportunities associated with working in the music industry.

Attendances were good, with an average of 16 young people attending each session. Most young people found the sessions extremely positive, saying how it has helped them develop and gain more confidence in writing and performing. Four acts performed at an event at the Bonington Theatre in January 2011; a measure of how well the project had been received was borne out by the passionate statement from the bass player of the last band on - he thanked "all the staff and funders for running the project and he urged the audience to back and support those of us who develop the projects, especially at the current time, since they (the group of young people) wouldn't have been able to achieve any of this without the project - we need these projects!". The groups' recorded sessions are currently being mixed and a CD of the tracks will be available shortly.

The project has been a very successful addition to on-going music provision in Gedling; with a proposed link-up with the latest County Youth Arts Youth Music bid ('Vox Academy') scheduled to begin this summer, which will see more opportunities and even greater diversity for the young people involved.

## Theme: A place where people can lead a healthy and active lifestyle

- **Improved housing application process** - the new Choice Based lettings system 'Homesearch' enables people on the Housing Register to bid for properties that would suit their needs. The system allows people to make applications to be on the Housing Register on-line and then once assessed they can bid on-line as properties are displayed similar to Estate Agencies. There are 1400 people on the Housing Register – which is held for anyone in Gedling looking for Social Housing (including Gedling Homes). This project has successfully been brought in through partnership working with Rushcliffe and Broxtowe, and with funding from Nottinghamshire Improvement and Efficiency Group and Choice Based Lettings.

- **Chinese New Year event 2011** - In February more than 80 families took part in creative activities in Arnot Hill Park inspired by the Chinese New Year.

Gedling Play Forum led Chinese themed arts and crafts activities and a local story teller also shared Chinese themed tales. In response to feedback from participants in previous years, in addition to the open sessions, for the first time this year a targeted session was delivered specifically for children with special educational needs.

This event was part of a wider partnership of Chinese New Year celebrations with other local authorities in Nottingham, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe and Lakeside Arts Centre.

Comments from participants included

- "What a fantastic range of activities - Our 2 boys loved it and so did we thank you"
- "the best ever well done to all of you."

- **Arts on Prescription... goes for a walk** - Aimed at people aged 16+ experiencing stress, depression, anxiety or other mental health issues this 6 week programme of events ran in February 2011 piloting activities incorporating healthy walks and outdoor activities. Workshops are run by experienced artists and aim to help participants regain their confidence through the arts, learn about art and broaden opportunities. Participants commented that sessions had led them to 'grasp the therapeutic nature of arts' and that sessions had also provided therapeutic benefits through socialising and taking part in lively discussions, something that one participant hadn't done since her illness began three years ago.

Art work produced during these sessions will be displayed as part of Netherfield Healthy Month in June and July. Given the positive response to these sessions it

is hoped that with support from Volunteer Walk Leaders, outdoor activities can become a more regular part of Arts on Prescription sessions in the future.

- **Killisick Membership Project** - The leisure centres are working closely with other agencies within the Killisick Improvement Team, to target health and participation in physical activity by residents of the borough. 60 gym memberships have been created which are being handed out to people on the estate who are keen to improve their health. We are also providing free leisure cards and free day passes to the Council's leisure centres.
- **Well@Work** - The Council's campaign to encourage all GBC employees to move more, eat well and feel better. Initiated in June 2010 after the Heath Fair based on feedback from staff, the working group has achieved a lot in the last quarter:
  - In January 11 members of staff from a range of departments completed the Health Champions training and assessment.
  - The scheme was launched with a free fruit day in February
  - 3 nutritional workshops, which a total of 27 staff attended
  - Dr Bike session in April helped staff get their bikes back on the road, and there was even a led bike ride on the streets of Arnold
  - Stop Smoking sessions run over 2 days had 13 individuals attend, and 11 of these have reported they haven't smoked since the sessions
  - Lunchtime fitness sessions on Mondays and the health walks on Thursdays have been running for a while, but since the launch of the well@work scheme, the take up by staff has improved.
  - Lunchtime Pilates sessions started in February which have been very popular. Over 200 attendances have been made to the sessions

Potential future activities include art sessions, Tai Chi and massage. Health assessment and regular consultation will take place to ensure the scheme continues to be a success.

- **Refurbishment of the Millennium Suite Completed** - During February the Millennium Suite at the Richard Herrod Centre received a full refurbishment including new carpets, dance floor and seating. Very positive feedback has been received from users - demonstrating that the correct décor choices were made, appealing to a wide range of customers from conference delegates right through to brides on their big day!

## **Theme: A place where we can take care of our environment**

- **Linby** - Planning Policy has prepared Conservation Area Appraisals for Linby and Papplewick. These Appraisals are intended to highlight qualities of an area

that we see as worthy of protection and enhancement. They also provide a framework for future development and decision making. Consultation exercises on both of appraisals have been completed and the documents are likely to be adopted by Summer 2011.

- **The Aligned Core Strategies for Greater Nottingham** has been progressed by the Planning Policy team. This now includes the recent and anticipated changes to strategic planning being implemented by the new government, in particular the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategies and the requirement for local planning authorities to be responsible for identifying the right level of local housing provision in their area and identifying a long term supply of housing land. When completed, the documents will set out how the Greater Nottingham councils intends to accommodate future housing growth, to ensure that the location of future development is sustainable, plan-led by Local Authorities and is accompanied by appropriate physical and social infrastructure.
- **Newstead Village** – A successful application to the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners scheme (formerly Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard) for Newstead Village. Gedling was amongst the first 17 successful applicants for the scheme and one of only two successful areas in the East Midlands. The programme offers funding and support for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village which sets out development proposals for the area and is created by the community and gives communities the opportunity to have a greater say in how their area is developed. We will be working very closely with local stakeholders and the wider village community in taking forward this project.

## **Theme: Operational vision and strategy: Gedling as a top performing Council**

- **Gedling Borough Council – One to Watch** – The Council achieved the classification of ‘One to Watch’ in the Best Places to work in the Public Sector Survey. This recognises the initiatives and developments put in place are bearing fruit and increasing the level of employee engagement throughout the council.
- **Successful Budget process** – Finance successfully completed the budget process for 2011/12, culminating in the approval of a balanced budget with a 0% increase in Council Tax and minimal front line service reductions at a time of significant reductions in Central Government grant.
- **Gedling’s statutory requirements in financial reporting met** – Finance successfully carried out the restatement and audit of the Council’s Accounts in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
- **Payment to suppliers improved** – Finance implemented a major upgrade of Agresso, the Council’s corporate financial management system, delivering

efficiencies and service improvements including standardised reporting and access for internal budget managers, and improved creditor payment workflows to assist with prompt payments to suppliers.

- **Transparency Agenda requirements met** – Finance successful development, implementation and publication of the £500 supplies and services report required by the Government's transparency agenda. This fulfils Gedling's statutory requirements and makes detailed payment information available for public scrutiny.
- **Financial savings achieved** – Public Protection signed a new dog kennelling contract signed with new provider, saving £3000 and ensuring better and more sustainable service.
- **Building Control Regional Building Excellence Awards** - 3 Projects controlled by Gedling Building Control have been short listed for these prestigious annual awards. The developments were nominated by the council's Building Control Section due to the high quality design and building work and the professional liaison between the team and site managers for work completed during the 2010/2011 financial year. Carlton Community Fire Station has been short listed for the best large commercial building/ best community building category. 16 – 18 Heather Lane, Ravenshead has been short listed for the Best Small Housing Development category and Warren House Bottom Farm, Calverton Road, Ravenshead has been short listed for the Best Individual Dwelling category.
- **Setting local planning application fees** - Development Control is leading a county wide group looking at co-ordinating locally set planning application fees, which has now expanded to include authorities from Derbyshire and Leicestershire.
- **Launch of a Direct Debit option for swimming lessons** - Launched in March 40 people are already taking advantage of the direct debit option for swimming lessons, which we hope will increase as the year goes on.