



## **Examples of Achievements and Activities**

**During**

**Quarter 4 2016/17**

## PEOPLE

### Reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime

**Newstead Doorstep Sport Home Office Project** - StreetGames rewarded Newstead Doorstep Club with £100 voucher to show their appreciation to the group for ensuring that all final monitoring for the Home Office project was completed. The funding will be used to purchase new sports equipment for the sport sessions held on Monday nights in the village.

**Junior Netball for Girls** - Mapperley Ladies Netball Club are introducing a new junior section to the club at Carlton Le Willows school. A start up grant of £381 from the Council has been provided to fund facility hire and equipment for the first 10 weeks, support was also provided to promote sessions and offer advice on further funding and qualifications. 26 participants attended the first session.

**Girls Activities** - Support and funding provided from the Community Relations Service to introduce a girls beginners swimming sessions for 12+ at Calverton Leisure Centre and a casual table tennis session for girls aged 12+ at Carlton Le Willows Academy. The sessions will start in April 2017.

**Nottingham Ice Arena Learn to Skate programme** - Working in partnership with the Nottingham Ice Arena's learn to skate programme primary schools were identified to be invited to a free learn to skate taster programme. The following schools have been selected to take part in a session after the Easter Holidays; Hawthorn Primary, Arnold Mill Primary and Killisick Junior School.

**Safeguarding in Sport Course** - A Sports Coach UK Safeguarding in Sport Course was delivered on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. 19 participants took part in the course a number of them from Carlton Forum Swimming club.

### Improve health and wellbeing

**Improved Health Suite at Carlton Forum** – the health suite and refurbished changing rooms opened to members of the public in January, and provides a state of the art steam and sauna facility with relaxation area. So far 125 people have taken out membership of the health suite and 2,523 have used it on a pay and play basis.

**Swimming Lesson Direct Debits introduced** – From March we made it possible for people learning to swim to pay for their lessons by direct debit. Not only does this spread the costs through the year it also gives the member unlimited free public swimming to help advance their techniques and skills outside of the instructed session. So far 375 people have moved onto this payment plan. Free Swim sessions continue and are very popular.

**New Artificial Grass Pitches – Redhill 3G programme of use** - The final programme of use for the new Artificial Grass Pitch at Redhill Leisure Centre has been completed. The Council has been working with the key partner clubs Gedling Southbank FC and Arnold Town FC to ensure they get an equal share of available pitch use. This will also include some access from the professional partner club Nottingham Forest Community Trust. The pitch is scheduled to be handed over on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Bookings will commence from 18<sup>th</sup> April.

**Increased venue bookings** - Future bookings for functions, conferences and meetings at the Richard Herrod Centre are at an all-time high for 2017.

**Sportivate membership increasing** – Currently there are 204 new members, the highest number we have signed up during the promotion.

**Increased visitors at Calverton Leisure Centre** – The number of users for 2016/17 has increased by 6,530 compared to the previous year. The total income for the entire financial year has also increased by £17k compared to last year (and this included a 6 week pool closure for refurbishments).

**Disabled swimming lessons** – the number of participants continues to grow with positive feedback from customers

‘Excellent disability swimming lessons, instructors are very attentive to children’s needs and this has helped them progress’.

‘Arnold disability swimming lessons are amazing. A year ago my son was unable to swim and petrified of water. He can now swim 200m, jumps in, puts his head in the water and loves it. All the instructors are truly amazing with each and every child they teach to swim. I never thought I would see the day that my son would love and enjoy swimming. Well done for offering swimming lesson for children with additional needs. The lessons are worth their weight in gold. Highly recommend them to anyone’.

**We Are Here – Calverton Self Esteem Course** - Funded by the Members Grants the Self Esteem course successfully ran in Calverton. The courses engage up to 6 individuals, 4 completed the course in Calverton which was held at the Sure start Centre. The feedback from the course was really positive with one individual gaining employment as a result.

**Community Health and Wellbeing Newsletter** - The first edition of the Community Health and Wellbeing Keep me Posted E-Newsletter was circulated to 390 subscribers. Content included information on Change Point Obesity and Weight Management Service, Health for Teens website, Walking in Gedling, talking therapies and Macmillan support. The newsletter will be circulated quarterly.

**Girls Make It Happen – Celebration Event** - A partnership event between Gedling Sports Partnership and Gedling Borough Council was organised to mark the one year anniversary of the Girls Make It Happen project and International Women’s Day. The event was held at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre where free swimming was offered to females all day. During the main event, taster sessions of a variety of exercise classes including Zumba, Clubbercise, Fight club and Pound Fit took place. The sessions were all fully attended. The sports hall hosted a series of stalls hosted by local providers, including Change Point, Mapperley Golf Club, Notts Roller Derby, Gedling Leisure Centres, Notts Women’s Runners and Gedling Sports Partnership.

**1km Arnot Hill Park Running Route** - A new Leaflet has been created to promote the new 1km route in Arnot Hill Park. The route follows the paths around the park making it accessible for all to walk, jog or run around the park. The new route will be promoted at an Easter park event and through social media too.

**Launch of Bestwood Village parkrun** - As part of the Bestwood Village Healthy Communities programme being delivered by the Council in partnership with local village representatives funding has been allocated to establish a new parkrun at Bestwood Country Park. The first event took place in January and the volunteer organised runs are scheduled every Saturday morning. 928 runners have participated in the first 12 weeks. Bestwood is the third parkrun for Gedling funded by the Council following the established adult and junior parkruns at Gedling Country Park.

**Improving food standards** - Due to people moving on to other roles and waiting for new people to arrive we have been a little short staffed, but with a little extra evening and weekend work we completed 405 visits and inspections to food businesses which met 100% of our food inspections due in 2016/17. The manager commented that is a fantastic achievement given the circumstances.

**Improving disabled peoples' homes** - despite staffing changes part way through the year officers completed 77 Disabled Facilities Grants for the year spending over £500,000 assisting residents with disabilities to live independently in their own homes.

## **Promote and encourage pride, good citizenship and participation in the local area**

**Ley Street Play Area and Trim Trail** - Netherfield Steering Group submitted successful bids to Nottinghamshire County Council's Supporting Communities Programme and WREN for a new play facility for juniors and Toddlers living in Netherfield.. The £32,000 will be used for a Trim Trail and WREN a further £45,738 for the play area.

Construction of the new play facility was completed in opened by the Mayor of Gedling Councillor Sandra Barnes, surrounded by children from Netherfield and St. John the Baptist Primary Schools who helped with the consultation and enjoyed playing on the new facilities.

**Friends of Gedling Country Park** – The Friends of Gedling Country Park have been successful in their application to Nottinghamshire County Council's 'Supporting Local Communities' fund. Working with GBC, the application will allow the Friends to commission an artist to create a piece of memorial art work for the Memorial Garden at Gedling Country Park.

**Gedling Youth Council takes over Council Senior Leadership Team** - Gedling Youth Council took up the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge this year, opting to take over the Council's Senior Leadership Team meeting during March 2017. A nominated group of young people delivered a presentation and discussed the key priorities set by the Youth Council. These included young people's mental health, loneliness and isolation; emerging new racial and cultural intolerance; peer pressure and stress caused by the culture of social media; issues of body image and new perceptions of gender; the generation gap caused by technological developments and a subsequent need to develop a curriculum for life to address the above. As a result of the meeting:

- Young people will each receive a Bronze Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge certificate at the next Youth Council meeting
- The Chief Executive pledged to support a series of campaigns relating to the Youth Council priorities.
- Young people to have a more integrated role in the workings of the Council and decision making structures, i.e. Council meetings, Scrutiny.

- A review to be carried out of current Youth Centre Provision, in partnership with the NCC Youth Service.
- Council consultations to be directed through the Youth Council, i.e. the annual Gedling Conversation.
- The Youth Council to host an intergenerational event with the new Seniors Council to help build trust and mutual awareness, recognise and jointly address shared themes, i.e. Loneliness / isolation, mental health and cultural inclusion.

**Gedling Seniors Council** - An inaugural Seniors Council meeting was held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, delivered in partnership with the Age UK Aging Well conference and Nottinghamshire County Older Person's Advisory Group meeting. The event was very well attended by both Gedling and Countywide representatives of older voluntary and community groups, and a clear mandate was given to establish a Seniors Council for Gedling with the following focus

- To develop a set of priorities and terms of reference for engagement with the older community and statutory service providers.
- To advocate for services to the older community and promote greater take up of opportunities to older citizens through existing community networks
- To scrutinise and help to shape existing, new and emerging services and raise issues and concerns wherever services are not meeting need.
- To feed into the wider County Older Person's advisory group, particularly in respect of influencing national policy and decision making.

**Chinese New Year event** - The event was attended by 160 children and their families in January 2017 who took part in a variety of Chinese New Year themed arts and crafts activities. A Lion Dance took place outside the Civic Centre and the event also offered traditional Chinese storytelling and music from artist Ling Peng.

**International Women's Day Programme** - The Gedling International Women's Day (IWD) programme took place throughout March 2017 and included a range of voluntary, community, business and Council led events.

The programme culminated in the **Recognition and Celebration Event** hosted by the Mayor. The event, drawing on the national theme #BEBOLDFORCHANGE with a local focus on the women's role in a changing multicultural society, was attended by over 100 representatives of local community organisations and their families, women and family support / partner organisations, with a 40% representation from ethnic minority groups, along with members of the LGBTQI and older communities.

A number of successful outcomes were delivered as part of the programme:

- **The Gedling Caribbean Elders Group** is working with Catherine Ross of 'Museumand' The National Caribbean Heritage museum on an upcoming TV documentary and short film, as well an oral history travel stories project with Nottingham Trent University.
- The IWD Film Showing event and month of Women focussed films enhanced local interest in the Bonington Theatre, and the **Prospect Players Vagina Monologues production on 31<sup>st</sup> March** sold over 100 tickets.

- The **Girls Make It Happen** Women's sport activation event delivered jointly by Gedling Sports partnership and the Council and free taster activities attracted over 300 women and girls through the day, with significant uptake of swimming, badminton and health suite provision and high signup to Buena Vida and GBC led workout sessions.
- **The WE R HERE/New Writers Creative Writing workshop** had a high attendance from women survivors of trauma, raising the profile of that organisation and supporting our current efforts to get the service commissioned.
- Many older people engaged in the IWD programme have signed up to participate in the new Seniors Council, giving a stronger voice to ethnic minorities and older women.
- A month long programme of family after school craft workshops at **The Milk Lounge Breastfeeding Friendly Café** in Arnold
- A **Bulgarian Community Mothers' Day** event
- A **commemorative bench installation in the Gedling Country Park** coordinated by Nottingham City, Netherfield and Gedling WI divisions
- A programme of **women's support and information stalls** in the Foyer of the Civic Centre.

**Pride of Gedling Awards** arranged in conjunction with the Nottingham Post.

**Successful Keep Me Posted campaign** – conducted for Council Tax billing for the second year running. Last year the campaign resulted in a reduction of several thousand Council Tax related calls into Customer Services during the billing period. This means that customers who needed to get through on the phones for assistance were able to. In addition last year, it delivered additional efficiencies with an extra 1,000 customers signing up to Keep Me Posted, more direct debits were set up and more change in circumstances were notified to us online.

**Successful promotion of cleaning up after your dog** by posting an 'April Fool's Video' on Facebook. It had 22,000 views and appeared on 80,000 Facebook pages

## **Reduce hardship and provide support to the most vulnerable**

### **Initiatives to address loneliness and dementia**

**Disability Female Football Sessions** - Notts County Football in the Community have been awarded funding to deliver Disability Female Football Sessions in Gedling. The sessions have been running at Gedling and Netherfield Day Centres since January 2017.

**Bestwood Village Autism Support Group** - Support provided to a group of individuals looking to set up a new Autism support group in Bestwood Village. Initial support provided on governance and initial set up costs. The group has been allocated some funding from the Bestwood Village Healthy Communities budget for start-up costs for room hire equipment and training.

**Ley Street Day Centre Choir** - After a long break in sessions some singing workshops have resumed with Service Users at Ley Street Day Centre in Netherfield. The group have been working with music teacher Jane Ashworth and after just 6 sessions the group was confident

enough to perform to the whole Day Centre. Service Users have enjoyed the sessions immensely, as has the teacher and sessions will continue after Easter with Council staff now looking at how the sessions can be sustained in the longer term.

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **Improve the customer experience of dealing with the Council**

#### ***Digital Customer***

- Council Tax customers can use online facilities for reporting moving house, single occupier status, disregard and exemptions, special arrangements, changing payment methods and requesting refunds
- The website platform has been upgraded which is an integral part of the website refresh

#### ***Digital Council***

- Legal Services is now using a digital case management system and has implemented the Single Justice procedure which enables criminal proceedings to be issued on line

#### ***Digital Community***

- We supported the national Be Online 2017 event on Wednesday 8th March. It was aimed at helping people who don't use the Internet. The event was run by Communications, Customer Services, Economic Development and colleagues in Arnold Job Centre. Another event to support the national initiative is planned for October
- Gary Bennett presented a session on Cyber Security at the Gedling Business Partnership meeting on Thursday 9th March

**Improving our customer service** -Launched the new and refreshed Customer Promise to aid consistent customer service. Embedment of this has commenced with, presentations at staff briefings, signage in the Council buildings and a video version of the promise on our TV Screens.

### **Give tax payers value for money**

**Increasing fuel efficiency** - The continuation of procuring and purchasing new more fuel efficient vehicles that meet the latest European Engine Standards to improve air quality and pollution has helped to reduce fuel usage. These include Euro VI refuse freighters with electric binlifts, a Euro VI precinct sweeper and more fuel efficient vans. This along with the use of the ESPO framework to achieve competitive prices and despite increases in fuel prices we have achieved a year end saving of £29,000 on fuel prices.

**Generating income** – the Council's City and Guilds accredited training section has generated just under £20,000 from selling training courses to other authorities, carrying out safeguarding training for taxi drivers and providing training to local small businesses via ERASMUS.





## **Maintain a positive and productive working environment and strong staff morale**

**Employee Success** - Our career graded fitter has entered a World Skills UK competition for Heavy Vehicle Engineering. He has initially completed an online test and will know the results on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May. If he passes this test he will be entered into area finals being held at Stephenson's College Leicestershire in July and if he is successful in the area finals he will go to the national finals at the NEC Birmingham. (probably November 2017).

## **PLACE**

### **Ensure local people are well prepared and able to compete for jobs**

**Apprenticeship Success** - Our Light Vehicle and Grounds Maintenance Apprentice has completed his first year of a three year apprenticeship.

### **Create more jobs and better access to them**

During quarter four work has progressed on the Local Planning Document to carry forward the protection of appropriate employment sites. Consultation will take place during May/June 2016.

Work has been ongoing during quarter four to progress the planning application for the Gedling Colliery development site - this includes the development of an employment and skills plan for the term of the housing construction phase. Planning application likely to be determined in May 2016.

Economic Growth continues to promote business and financial support initiatives via the Business Keep Me Posted function on a monthly basis. In addition Economic Growth takes details on initiatives to the Gedling Business Partnership on a monthly basis. The department continues to promote the Gedling Apprenticeship Grant.

A letter will be sent to businesses located within the rural areas in Q4 to promote LEADER and the next funding round of the Nottinghamshire County Council Capital Fund.

Meetings have been held with the partnership manager from the Growth Hub to see how we can collaborate more and encourage Gedling based businesses to access support. We are looking at a range of options which including hosting Growth Hub events in the Borough, working on joint events and regular business surgeries at the Civic Centre.

17 employers have received support via the Erasmus+ apprenticeship support service to recruit an apprentice to date.

### **Provide more homes**

**Top Wighay Farm Development Brief** – a revised brief for the Top Wighay Farm site has been adopted to help shape the future development on the site. The site was allocated for development in the Aligned Core Strategy, to accommodate housing and employment uses and supported by appropriate infrastructure. The key purpose of preparing a revised brief is to help

achieve the range of uses and infrastructure to be provided, in order to guide the future development of the site. The document will be used to determine planning applications relating to the site.

**Examination of Local Planning Document** – the Local Planning Document was submitted for examination in October 2016 and an Inspector has been appointed by the Secretary of State to undertake the independent examination into whether the document is sound and complies with all the legal requirements. The criteria for soundness are whether the Plan's policies are positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policies. Hearing sessions have taken place over three weeks during February and March which have allowed interested parties to express their views to the Inspector. The Inspector is now considering whether or not she has sufficient information and can proceed to preparing her report.