

**Examples of Achievements and Activities  
during  
Quarter 2 2019/20**

# Strong and Dynamic Communities

## **PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PRIDE, GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

**Calverton Play Day** - The Play Day took place on 20th July at William Lee Memorial Park with a Pirates and Princesses theme. The Council aims to increase the capacity of the Calverton Play Day Event Committee to take greater ownership of the event and they have reported progress in registering as a charity. The majority of the activities and attractions were funded by the Calverton Play Day Committee, as a result of a successful fundraising campaign held in the year leading up to the event. Gedling Play Forum arts and craft activities were funded by via an annual service level agreement with the Council.

**Arnold Play Day** - Funded and organised by the Council, the Play Day took place on 7th August at Arnot Hill Park with many local partners engaged including Inspire Library Service, Friends of Bestwood Country Park, Mapperley and Arnold Rotary Club, Tiny Talk Baby Signing and GBC Parks Team, who gathered 1000+ completed parks surveys. Gedling Play Forum arts and craft activities were funded by via an annual service level agreement with the Council.

**Carlton Play Day** - Funded and organised by the Council, the Play Day took place on 21st August at Jubilee Park, Burton Road. Partners engaged including Extreme Wheels, Mapperley and Arnold Rotary Club, Nottinghamshire Police and Pulp Friction. Gedling Play Forum arts and craft activities were funded by via an annual service level agreement with the Council.

**Arnot Hill Park Centenary – Picnic in the Park** - The Council, with support from the Friends of Arnot Hill Park delivered a Picnic in the Park event to commemorate 100 years of Arnot Hill Park as a public park. The event took place on 21<sup>st</sup> July and included performances from local company Handmade Theatre. To link with festivities held in the park throughout its history Thoresby Colliery Band performed and Maypole dancing workshops took place for families on the lawn outside Arnot Hill House. The event was also attended by a group of young people from the National Citizen Service who offered a cake sale to raise money for their renovation of a garden at Nottingham City Hospital. City Arts provided print making and paper craft activities in the bowls pavilion.

**DKNS Bone Marrow testing event** - An event proposed by Councillor Kathryn Fox, supported by the Community Investment Manager, Communications and Caretaking Teams was held at the Civic Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> September. The aim of this event was to encourage testing and registration of potential bone marrow donors to help treat a rare genetic form of blood cancer. The event was highly successful, attracting wide media interest, engagement from staff, partners and elected members and the wider public. At least 60 people registered as potential donors.

**16 and Under Youth Summer Diversionary programme** - The Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities made a request for the Council to provide a Youth Diversionary Activity Programme for 11- 16 year olds during the school summer holidays. The main aims of this programme included engaging young people into positive activities away from low level anti-social behaviour and general boredom, promoting social cohesion and providing opportunities away from technology and mobile phones.

The final programme engaged over 200 young people and included a diverse range of activities which included:

- free swimming and badminton sessions at GBC Leisure Centres
- Skate Jam and Graffiti Art Events at 6 GBC parks and also Bestwood Country Park
- Girls Fitness Circuit Sessions at Killisick Recreation Ground
- additional activities at local youth centres in Redhill and Calverton
- Four days of dance, theatre and singing delivered by local group Flying High culminating in a performance at the Bonington Theatre
- Creative performance project by HandMade Theatre company at Gedling Country Park called '*Routes to roots*'
- A programme of films for young people at the Bonington Theatre, including a free screening of Avengers: Endgame.

**Bestwood Youth Shelter project** - Following the success of the Skate Jam sessions as part of the Under 16's summer youth activity programme, Bestwood Village Parish Council requested that the artist involved in these sessions be approached to repaint the youth shelter in Bestwood Country Park. Three sessions have taken place supported by Nottinghamshire County Council mobile youth provision. Young people from Bestwood worked with the artist to create a new design for the youth shelter and paint it to provide a more welcoming and attractive space for the young people to use.

**Rhubarb Theatre Show in Netherfield** - Families in Netherfield attended a show from Rhubarb Theatre 'The Boy who wanted to Fly' at the St Georges Centre as part of the local programme of summer holiday activities.

**Haywood Road Community Centre** - A formal submission and business plan has been received from Haywood Road Community Association as part of their application for community asset transfer of Haywood Road Community Association. A subsequent six week public consultation has taken place on this proposal during July and August. The Association has also now successfully achieved its status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. A decision on the community asset transfer will need to be undertaken at the October Cabinet meeting.

**Gedling Youth Council** - A Youth Council meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> September, at which the new Portfolio Holder for Young People and Equalities Councillor Viv McCrossen and Policy Advisor Councillor Kathryn Fox introduced themselves and discussed with members how they might support the work of the group. Creation of a Youth Information Hub was discussed, also plans to progress and promote mental health support for young people. The Gedling under 16s Summer Holiday activity programme commissioned by the Portfolio Holder was highlighted as a great opportunity to engage with young people going forward. The group also received guest speaker Coral Hotchkiss of the NHS England commissioned Notts Young Carers Hub and shared ideas on how to promote the service to young carers.

Four Youth Council Members including the Gedling Youth Mayor, appointed at the AGM and Mayor Making in June, and Chair of Gedling Youth Council represented the Council at a Civic event to welcome a Rotenburg School twinning event at the Civic Centre on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Gedling Seniors Council** - A Gedling Seniors Council meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, addressing the theme of 'Getting Out and About' in Gedling. Guest Speakers included representatives of Inspire Arts community learning, the Nottinghamshire Concessionary Transport Scheme covering the older person's bus pass, Arnold U3A and the Gedling Heritage Project, including the Heritage Project film.

**Arnot Hill Park Centenary – Mural Project** - The Arnot Hill Park Picnic in the Park event in July provided an opportunity for the community to contribute to the painting of a new mural on the bridge running along the former railway line bordering the park. The mural was themed around the centenary of the park. City Arts and artist Amy Nicholson delivered the project as part the 'Express Yourself' programme which supports young people in gaining skills and qualifications by raising self-esteem through participation in arts activities in a safe creative environment. Informed by research undertaken by Arnold Local History Group, the young people and the artist produced a design for the mural which they then painted with additional support from Nottingham Trent University students and the wider community at the Picnic in the Park event.

### **REDUCE POVERTY AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE MOST VULNERABLE**

**Food Bank Drive** - A Food Bank Drive was run in August 2019 organised by our Housing Services Team Leader with support from Revenues and Welfare Support colleagues. This was due to the 20% increased demand on Food Bank services during school holidays. A number of service users known to the Housing Team use this facility to assist with food for the family in the short term. We delivered distinctive red "Bag of Life" with a list of requested items to each Service Area in the Council and collected the donated items a week later. In that time over 30 large bags were filled with food and toiletries, the food box was also filled and someone also donated 5 trays of tinned goods. This equated to a car full of food and very happy staff at the Daybrook Baptist Church food bank. A bag of donated food was also delivered to a local resident in the Carlton area who had come to the attention of Environmental Health staff and was facing hardship. A further Food Bank Drive is planned towards the Christmas period to help those residents in the Borough that are most in need.

**Nottingham Citizens Advice Bureau Service Level Agreement** - The Council has an annual service level agreement with Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to support local residents at outreach services in Arnold, Calverton and Netherfield. During the period April to June, 110 Gedling residents were supported at the outreach service, 65% of whom were female and 52% declared themselves as disabled or having a long-term health condition. CAB reported £78,371 of benefit gain for attendees following the advice given at the outreach. A further 192 Gedling residents were assisted at the main Nottingham office during April to June, who received £73,182 of benefit gain.

**Financial Help for a Vulnerable Customer** - In an excellent example of serving people and improving lives the Customer Services Manager led assistance from GBC and the DWP to ensure that a vulnerable gentleman in financial difficulty received the help he was entitled to, resulting in a payment of around £10,000 in backdated eligibility to discounts/benefits.

## **REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME**

**Injunction Against Illegal Encampments** - Following a recent unauthorised encampment at the Richard Herrod Centre, Gedling Borough Council's Public Protection and Legal teams responded quickly and were granted an injunction, banning any illegal encampments throughout the entire borough. Not only was this successful in removing the encampment within two days, but it was the first of its kind to be issued within Nottinghamshire. The injunction means that anyone who sets up an unauthorised encampment within the borough can be held in contempt of court, liable to imprisonment, fined or have assets seized. The court granted the injunction until the end of October. There was then a breach of the injunction with an encampment setting up on privately owned land in Newstead in September. Again, swift action from Public Protection who served copies of the injunction on the occupants of the encampment and another trip to court to enforce the injunction. Our Planning, Leisure, Parks & Street Care and Communications teams also assisted Legal Services and Public Protection in achieving this important piece of work for the Borough.

**Knife Amnesty** - The Council has again taken part in Nottinghamshire Police's most recent Knife amnesty – one of only a few locations across the County that is not a Police Station.

**Gedling Youth Council Knife Crime Film** - A working group comprising of delegates from the Youth Council, Dave Wakelin, Corporate Director and Violent Crime task force lead, Local Police Inspector Chris Pearson and Police in Schools Coordinator Karen Dalby has been meeting since March 2019 and successfully developed a Knife Crime film script targeting Years 7 and above. The forward plan is now to engage with a creative partner to produce and direct the film, to work on an accompanying lesson pack, and, once all completed, to launch the film and pack at The Bonington Theatre next Spring.

## **High Performing Council**

### **IMPROVE THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE OF ENGAGING WITH THE COUNCIL**

**Customer Services Media Accounts** - Following the separation of customer related contact on social media and promoting Council services, resulting in the creation of dedicated customer services social media accounts, training has now been delivered by Communications to more staff within Customer Services to develop the service. Month by month contact by this method grows and directly impacts on both the Digital Council and Digital Customer themes of the Digital Strategy. A Digital Officer is now part of the rota for customer services to deal with digital contact, which has improved the digital service to our residents.

**Taxi Licensing System Improvements** - Following a customer journey mapping exercise, improvements have been made to the internally developed Taxi Licensing systems to make the process more efficient, helping deliver the Digital Council theme of the Digital Strategy.

### **PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES**

**Silver Safety Award** - our Leisure Services team have received the Silver Award in Health & Safety from the International Institute of Risk & Safety Management. The award recognised the excellent commitment to Health & Safety for services that deal direct with guests and visitors on a daily basis. Officers were presented with the award at a special ceremony in Birmingham in June.

**APSE Award Shortlisting** - our Parks and Street Care team have been shortlisted for an APSE award for Best Service Team of the Year for their Cemetery and Pet Crematorium Services.

## **MAINTAIN A POSITIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND STRONG EMPLOYEE MORALE**

**Employee Intranet** - In response to a staff survey and to strengthen actions under the Digital Council theme of the Digital Strategy a better and easier to use intranet has been launched, making it easier for staff to get the information they may need on a day to day basis.

## **IMPROVE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

**Improvements in Digital Technology for Members** - Following the local elections iPads have been rolled out by IT to members as part of a specific action under the Digital Council theme of the Digital Strategy, Democratic Services have also been heavily involved in delivering this project. Also, a new digital newsletter for Members - Councillor Contacts - has been launched. These improvements will enable our members to work in a mobile and efficient way and have improved digital skills.

# **Vibrant Economy**

## **PROVIDE MORE HOMES**

**Housing Action Plan** - The Council is required to prepare an action plan which analyses the key reasons for the under delivery of the Council's housing requirement and identifies measures the Council intends to undertake to increase delivery of new housing. The Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan was published in August 2019 and can be viewed here:

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/gedlingboroughcouncil/documents/planningpolicy/amrand5yhlsa/HAP2019.pdf>

**Five Year Land Supply** - Like all local planning authorities in England, the Council is required to establish whether it has a five year supply of housing land. This exercise is undertaken at least annually. The 2019 report was published in August and can be viewed here:

<http://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/gedlingboroughcouncil/documents/planningpolicy/amrand5yhlsa/5YLS2019.pdf>

**Willow Farm Development Brief** - The Willow Farm site north east of Gedling Village has been allocated for housing in the Council's local plan. A development brief has been drafted in order to guide future planning applications and to inform local residents of the preferred nature and form of development. Consultation on the draft development brief took place during August and September and the draft brief can be viewed here:

<https://consultplanningpolicy.gedling.gov.uk/consult.ti/wfdb/consultationHome>

## **ENSURE LOCAL PEOPLE ARE WELL PREPARED AND ABLE TO COMPETE FOR JOBS**

**Work experience placements** - We are proud to have hosted seven work experience students from schools across the borough including Redhill Academy, Arnold Hill Academy and Colonel Frank Seeley Academy. The students were placed in a variety of teams around the Council and enjoyed a full week getting to understand how we provide services to residents across the borough. Wherever possible we try to match students' interests with the work of the teams in which they are placed so that the insight into work is as meaningful as possible. The latest cohort of school work experience students brings the total of placements offered for the year up to 15.

**School Events** – there were two school events held in this period: one at Carlton le Willows Academy and the other at Chris the King Academy. These are joint events with the schools to help show young people a glimpse of the world of work.

## **CREATE THRIVING AND VIBRANT TOWN AND LOCAL CENTRES**

**Carlton Square project** – consultation on the proposed plans were consulted on with Gedling residents, retailers and businesses. There were a series of consultation events in August to advertise the work being done.

## **DRIVE BUSINESS GROWTH AND JOB CREATION THROUGH LOCAL AND INWARD INVESTMENT**

**Business support session** – was run by D2N2 Growth Hub, and facilitated by our Economic Growth and Regeneration team to provide support to local businesses. In this quarter, there was 6 businesses who received this opportunity for support.

**Funding bids** – the Economic Growth team submitted 5 funding bids to D2N2 for a total of £7.5m. We are waiting to hear back about whether we have been successful. The Strategic Housing team have also submitted a bid to the Local Government Association for specialist advice and funding to deliver housing schemes.

# **Sustainable Environment**

## **PROVIDE AN ATTRACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT THAT LOCAL PEOPLE CAN ENJOY**

**Green Flag Awards** – our Parks and Street Care team were awarded Green Flag status on Arnot Hill Park, Burton Road Jubilee Park and Gedling Country Park. This national award is recognition of parks that are managed to a consistent high standard and recognition of the value to the whole community. These parks have specific management plans in place with annual projects involving the community volunteers.

**Opening of new Green Space and Play Area at Haywood Road, Mapperley** - Following a successful joint bid by the Council and the Haywood Road Community Association, FCC Communities Foundation Ltd (a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects), work began on a new £140,000 park and play area on Haywood Road in Mapperley. The park includes a rope pyramid, seesaws, slide, roundabout, balance beams, swings, picnic tables, benches and a table tennis area. The Play area installation was complete and opened to the public in July 2019 and offers a great Green Space for local people, especially children, in which to enjoy themselves.

### **CONSERVE, ENHANCE, PROMOTE AND CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE**

**Thomas Hawksley Memorial** - A memorial to the 19<sup>th</sup> century water engineer Thomas Hawksley has been commissioned and is being produced by local artist Richard Janes, who has delivered workshops with Arnbrook Primary School to inform the final design. The memorial will be installed in Arnot Hill Park in October 2019.

**‘Routes to Roots’ – Handmade Theatre at Gedling County Park** - As part of plans to develop a piece of theatre about the history of Gedling Country Park, Handmade Theatre delivered two days of activities for families over the school summer holidays. They offered willow craft activities and performance and story trails around the park sharing information about the history and heritage of the park and wider local area. The evaluation of this activity will contribute towards a Heritage Grant application and feedback was received from 120 participants.

### **PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY MINIMISING POLLUTION AND WASTE**

**Launch of Employee Green Champion Scheme** – to coincide with national recycling week, Gedling Borough Council launched a new scheme that aims to make a real change within our council. The Green Champion scheme wants to create change with a dedicated task force of staff from across the organisation who are determined to deliver energy efficiency and waste reductions. The scheme was the idea of one of our Customer Services advisors who made the suggestion to Senior Leadership Team. They subsequently agreed that she could lead the campaign. She said: "This campaign isn't about making our lives impossible, it's about making us realise just how much throwaway plastic is part of our everyday life, how much energy is wasted on electrical items being left on standby, and most importantly, how small, easy lifestyle shifts can drastically reduce these."



# Healthy Lifestyles

## **IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

**Planning and Health workshop** – internal training event for officers on how planning can help to create a healthy environment.

**Housing to Health, Hospital Prevention and Discharge Project** – this project has been shortlisted with 2 other councils for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health – Environmental Health Project of the Year 2019. In the past 12 months the project has received over 90 referrals. The scheme was established to reduce bed-blocking and avoidable admissions caused by unsafe or unsuitable housing and to support homeless patients. A core ambition is to improve health and wellbeing. The Council's Health & Housing Co-ordinators are a central point of contact bringing together housing, health and social care services and other partners to resolve housing issues that delay hospital discharge or contributes to repeated or avoidable admissions and re-admissions.

**Health & Wellbeing Plan** - The quarterly meeting to report progress to the Gedling Health and Wellbeing Delivery Group was held in September and included a range of agenda items that feed directly into the outcomes of the plan. Examples included:

- An update on the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System and specifically data produced for the local Primary Care Networks.
- An update on the new Public Health Commissioned Integrated Wellbeing Service.
- The Children and Young People's mental health trailblazer project taking place in selected schools within the Gedling area.
- The next steps for social prescribing in Gedling.

## **SUPPORT PHYSICALLY ACTIVE LIFESTYLES**

**Redhill Gym Refurbishment** - A £74K refurbishment of Redhill gym took place in August which has seen new equipment, specialist flooring, decoration and lighting and continues to support healthy lifestyles commitment ensuring accessible facilities for all. The site is currently running a 2 week free DNA membership promotion which runs until the end of October.

**Boditrax** – Two new Boditrax machines were purchased for Carlton Forum and Redhill Leisure Centres. Use of these machines is included in the DNA membership and provides users with over 20 key body statistics including body fat, muscle, metabolic rate, hydration levels etc. this key interaction with the DNA member enables the member of the fitness team to signpost the member to activities to ensure they get value for money from their fitness membership. This new member benefit will help sell memberships and also retain existing members.

**Calverton Pool Hall** - The pool at Calverton closed for 5 weeks over summer holidays to allow for the removal of asbestos from the pool hall ceiling, which created an opportunity to redecorate the area at the same time. The pool re-opened on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August (1 day earlier than planned) and ran a free "Swim 4 All" session on the 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the early opening, which was well attended.

**SPRIING Project** - The SPRIING project continues to signpost Gedling residents into a range of community based activities to reduce loneliness and social isolation. Some of these activities include physical activities such as walking groups and exercise referral. Work has commenced with the Leisure Centre to review the marketing and promotion of health based classes such as Heartbeats, Strokability, Falls prevention and DNA health. These sessions will be embedded into the SPRIING pathway and the new and emerging Link Worker referral process.

**Improver Running Programme** - Another successful summer Improver Running programme funded by the Council has taken place over the summer, with an average of 25 participants of all abilities attending each session. In total 116 people participated in these sessions which took place at Carlton-le-Willows Academy. The group are now looking for winter venues to continue the sessions if feasible. Feedback from one participant: "The sessions ran from Carlton Le Willows have been excellent; the sessions have been well structured and suited to all abilities. Our coach has been fantastic and provides just the right amount of motivation to get the group through the session. This year hasn't been the best for me due to illness and injury, the sessions have structured enough to allow me to participate and improve over the summer months."

## **INCREASE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND USERS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

**Repair to Arnot Hill Park Play Area** – Following an act of vandalism that caused £32,000 worth of damage to play-equipment, which was damaged beyond repair, at the play area at Arnot Hill Park. PASC Services arranged for a replacement Tower and Slide unit to replace the burnt out one that had to be removed due to fire damage. The replacement unit is similar to the previous one, but fabricated from steel which will make it more robust and prevent such acts of vandalism in the future. The new tower and slide unit was reopened to the public for local children to use in July 2019.

**Local Football Facilities Plan** - The final version of the Local Football Facilities Plan for Gedling was produced in June 2019. Since the plan was produced work on the following projects have commenced. Football Foundation funding has now been secured for a new 3G facility and changing rooms at Carlton-le-Willows Academy supported by £300,000 match funding from the Council. This project is due for completion early 2020.

**Lambley Lane Recreation Ground** - Community Relations Service Area is compiling a further funding bid of £80,000 for improved facilities at Lambley Lane Recreation Ground. Match funding for this project has been approved from the local Community Infrastructure Levy non-parish contributions.

## **REDUCE LEVELS OF LONELINESS AND ISOLATION**

**Grant support for local groups through the SPRIING Scheme** - Grants of £250 have been awarded to the Netherfield Allotment project and the Friends for Life Aye up Mi Duck dementia support group. SPRIING is a social prescribing scheme for the Gedling area supporting older people.

**SPRIING Link Sessions** - A series of SPRIING link sessions between local group volunteers and SPRIING clients are being delivered. These offer information about local services, community connectivity and social opportunities for attendees. SPRIING is a social prescribing scheme for the Gedling area supporting older people.

**New social prescribing system for South Nottinghamshire** - The social prescribing system for the South Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Provider (ICP) has been designed and is currently being implemented. This includes Link Workers assigned to each of the four new Primary Care Networks (PCNs) covering the Gedling area. Additional funding has been agreed by the Integrated Care System (ICS) to support the development of community infrastructure across the wider social prescribing system. GBC has been awarded £35,000 to host a temporary Community Development Worker post that will work across the South Nottinghamshire Locality alongside Link Workers, other districts and an organisation commissioned to develop Co-production forums in each district area.