

**GEDLING**

**PLAN**

**2020-2023**

**Examples of Achievements and  
Activities**

**During**

**Quarter 3 - 2020/21**

# Cohesive, Diverse and Safe COMMUNITIES

## Promote and encourage pride, good citizenship and participation

**Pride of Gedling Awards** - The first ever virtual Pride of Gedling Awards took place in November. It was very popular with a very much larger audience than would be possible in a purely physical event and the feedback from attendees has been very positive.

**Gedling Youth Council** reconvened on Teams on 23rd November for the first time since February. Youth Service colleagues and Youth Councillors were able to input into question design for the Young Peoples Survey, which was launched in early December. Young people also reviewed the NCC Children and Young People Board MH2K peer led Mental Health consultation, highlighting issues for boys and young men in accessing help and support. Members were informed of their successful Lord Lieutenants Award for Volunteering, which was confirmed back in March/April 2020, pending a formal celebration planned at the Lord Lieutenant's residence in Summer 2021.

The Meeks Sisters, local residents presented their 'Kids Against Plastic' Charity and set out their aims to sign up Gedling and Countywide Primary Schools. As a result, the NCC Youth Service is rolling out sign up to the Charity and EcoToolkit by all of its Youth Centres, and the Youth Mayor is backing the campaign in Gedling primary schools, all of which have been sent the pledge and link.

Members also received a presentation from Public Health Commissioned ABL on their 'Your Health Your Way' young people's lifestyle initiative, and a short wellbeing survey was circulated to members after the meeting for completion.

**Gedling Seniors Council** reconvened on Teams on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Twelve members attended, most using Teams for the first time. Members enjoyed a mindfulness / safe aerobic exercise session delivered by a local practitioner, shared their Covid -19 experiences and hopes for the new year, and made plans for a Newsletter and a Seniors Council resilience building/constitutional development project, for which funding will need to be secured.

**NHS Volunteer integration and learning** - Gedling has been selected as a pilot for the integration of NHS Volunteer Responders following a successful bid submitted to 'NHS Good Sam' Funding opportunity. The £30,000 allocation will help integrate NHS registered volunteers at the local level, with a view to extending roles, engage in learning with a view to developing a sustainable partnership and local volunteer resource.

**Volunteers** - The Community Relations team have continued to support the recruitment and deployment of volunteers with a resurgence in interest in registering to volunteer during Lockdown 2. Volunteers continue to be signposted to One Step at a Time (through Jigsaw Homes) and Rushcliffe CVS as part of the South Notts Befriending service. In addition to this 5 volunteers assisted with the distribution of festive Good Neighbour Guides to community hubs around the borough. A further 6 volunteers assisted staff at the Richard Herrod Centre packing festive food parcels for local families. The Community Relations team maintains a database of around 50 volunteers who are active and responsive to new opportunities as they arise. An assessment of spontaneous community groups took place in advance of Lockdown 2 to ascertain if they were continuing to offer the same support to local residents as had been established earlier in the spring. Many reported that relationships had been formed between volunteers and local residents which were ongoing, and so new support requests were minimal. Further support from volunteers was available in many cases should it be needed and contact will be maintained with these groups should they require assistance from the Council.

**Gedling Christmas Projects** - Given the Covid-19 restrictions the Council coordinated Christmas promotion and celebration in a Covid-19 secure manner in December. This included an Arnold Covid-19 secure Festive Market and synchronised virtual Light switch on, production and distribution of Festive Good Neighbour Guide by GBC Volunteers, engagement of Church and Food Bank Leaders Group in promoting a safe Christmas and encouraging residents to keep an eye on older and vulnerable neighbour.

The Community Relations Team reproduced 25 children's entries to the Mayors Christmas Card competition for display in Arnold Market Place.

An artist created reusable lanterns which were displayed in Arnold Library and the Civic Centre. An instruction sheet on producing lanterns from recycled materials was produced and distributed to local schools. Carlton Digby School produced 20 lanterns which were displayed in the Civic Centre Foyer.

### **Reduce poverty and inequality and provide support to the most vulnerable**

**Feeding Gedling Fund – Festive Parcels** - In response to footballer Marcus Rashford's campaign around children's food poverty launched in the October half term, GBC Elected Members had raised just over £10,000 to support food for vulnerable families and children in the Borough. The Humanitarian Team lead worked with NCC Children's Services, ABL Health, Gedling Play Forum, GBC Customer Services, the RHC Hub and Church and Food Bank Leaders Group to identify and provide healthy, festive food parcels to the 600 most vulnerable families in the Borough in the week leading up to Christmas.

**Development of Family Food Clubs and Social Eating Opportunities** - The Council has submitted a bid to the NCC Emergency Assistance Fund for £55,000 for the rollout of up to 5 ultimately self-sustaining Family Food Clubs in Children's Centres in priority localities in Netherfield, Killisick, Newstead, Calverton and Arnbrook, as well as 'Cook and Eat' social eating sessions in community hubs in Netherfield, Newstead, Calverton, Bestwood, and in Youth Centres across the Borough.

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

**Selective Licensing Scheme progress** - A successful phase 2 selective licensing public consultation was held. This included engagement with landlord associations, press releases and Nottingham Post coverage. Leaflets were delivered together with an article to all residents in the Contacts magazine. Two live virtual consultation briefings were held online and recordings were made available on the council's website. Over 100 consultation responses have been received and the feedback from stakeholders is currently being considered.

**Covid compliance and enforcement work** has been ongoing. Covid Marshalls have been patrolling high footfall areas of the borough and engaging with businesses and the community to encourage compliance. Officers from the Public Protection Service have been investigating over 20 requests for service each week. The majority of cases are resolved informally but where necessary enforcement powers are used.

**Successful closure order** - Public Protection Officers, the council's Legal Team and Nottinghamshire Police worked in partnership to address a café and bookshop that continued to operate in breach of the restrictions. The business was closed after council officers successfully obtained a closure order after presenting evidence to the courts supported by Nottinghamshire Police.

# High Performing COUNCIL

## Provide efficient and effective services

**Annual Bulky Waste Collection** - In December, we launched our [annual Bulky Waste Collection](#) with over 700 online free collection bookings placed on the first day! This scheme helps out residents get rid of unwanted items, reduces fly tipping and in a bleak winter, every little helps.

**RESET** - Along with other teams the OD team has supported unplanned work related to Covid19 and in particular in relation to the placement of almost 160 contracted employees and casual workers across two teams (Leisure and Community Services) onto furlough when services were closed during “tier 3” restrictions.

## Maintain a positive and supportive working environment and strong employee morale

**An on-line programme of mental health awareness** has been launched and has been made available to as many employees across the council as possible. Although only just released the feedback has been very positive. This is in addition to the existing support programmes that include our Employee Assistance Programme.

**Staff Awards** - The first ever staff virtual staff award ceremony, organised and presented by the employee engagement group (“Our Gedling”), took place in December and was attended by over 100 employees from across the Council. The award ceremony was also made available on our employee Facebook page for employees unable to attend on the day.

## Improve use of digital technologies

**Projects and Upgrades** - A number of projects and upgrades have been completed within IT including; completing the implementing forms and zoom, the Civica OpenPortal Migration, the Mitel Contact Centre Upgrade and installing the Konica Data Collection Agent.

# Vibrant ECONOMY

## Ensure a robust strategic development framework is in place

**Authority Monitoring Report** - The National Planning Practice Guidance states that local planning authorities must publish information at least annually that shows progress with Local Plan preparation, reports any activity relating to the duty to cooperate and shows how the implementation of policies in the Local Plan is progressing.

The Authority Monitoring Report for GBC is there prepared annually and an updated version has now been published which covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The monitoring report contains information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the policies contained in the Aligned Core Strategy and the Local Planning Document are being successfully implemented. The report also provides a baseline of information for the Borough.

To view the updated AMR, visit

<https://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/gedlingboroughcouncil/documents/planningpolicy/amrand5yhsa/FINAL%20AMR%202019-20.pdf>

## Drive business growth, workforce development and job opportunities

**Recruitment Academy** - Gedling Leisure department are working with Swim England to develop local volunteers and local residents that have shown an interest in swimming into Qualified Swimming Teachers. Swim England help to identify and train local residents to give them the skills to come and work with us at Gedling Borough Council. We have a recruitment drive upcoming and we hope that the fruitful partnership continues to provide talented and skilled staff for Gedling Borough Council.

**Supported Internship Programme** - Despite the restrictions placed on services due to Covid19, the Organisational Development Team has worked hard to push forward on two pieces of work to enable other teams to offer places through the Supported Internship Programme (PASC and Waste Services Admin) and KickStart (PASC and Waste Services). The Supported Internship Programme is run with partners at Notts County Council and West Notts College and provides meaningful work experience placements over a prolonged period of time for young people with learning difficulties. Our first placements start in January. The KickStart scheme is a programme just introduced by the Government to help unemployed young people on Universal Credit to gain paid work experience to help improve their chance of permanent employment after the six-month placement comes to an end.

**Apprenticeship Programme Success** - Our apprenticeship programme continues to be a success with 50% of the learners from cohort 1 having completed and the other 50% almost at the finish line. We have 4 more apprentices from cohort 2 on track to finish by April 2021. We are incredibly proud to be a part of this success and are working hard to get the other learners over the finishing line by April 2021.

**Business Grants (Covid Support)** - The Business Grants team continues to administer the ever changing business grants throughout the varying tiers and lockdowns. Currently 12 different grants are being administered with a combined grant value of around £11m. The Revenues Services team and the Financial Services team are administering these grants whilst still meeting statutory deadlines and maintaining performance in their day to day functions.

# Sustainable ENVIRONMENT

## Provide an attractive and sustainable local environment that local people can enjoy

**APSE Award 2020** – Our Parks and Street Care team won the APSE Annual Service Award 2020 for “Best Service Team: Street Cleansing and Streetscene Service (Public Realm).” Faced with pressure on ‘Street Cleansing Services’, especially in the Top Valley/Warren Hill Estate area of Gedling Borough, both in terms of finances, and escalating complaints, a solution was required to resolve the situation. By establishing a ‘Clean Streets Partnership’ working together with neighbouring authorities and local resident groups in a dynamic relationship, Gedling Borough Council Street Cleansing Services managed to raise standards of delivery and added social value to ensure tidier streets and better integrated waste and recycling.

**Gedling Country Park** – Work was completed on a new outdoor seating area adjacent to the visitor Café 1899 at GCP. This is a new canopied seating area for 20 people plus, which will enable dog walkers to sit in shelter and drink a coffee in the inclement months ahead. The project was completed in December and opened by Portfolio Holder Cllr Barnes and the Leader.

**Gedling Country Park Tree Trail** - The artists ‘Instar’ have been appointed by the Council and the Friends of GCP to create a piece of art work to enhance the tree trail, funded by the Coop Community fund.

**Carlton Cemetery Remembrance Garden Extension** - Work to develop a derelict area within the Carlton Cemetery grounds adjacent to the existing Cemetery Remembrance garden, as a cemetery Remembrance garden extension, has taken place during October/November at Carlton Hill Cemetery. The official opening for this new facility was attended by the Portfolio Holder Peter Barnes and area ward member Cllr Gregory.

**Netherfield Community Activity Intensification Plan** - A ‘Partnership’ 5 days of Community Activity in Netherfield, titled the Netherfield Community Activity Intensification Plan is taking place over 5 weeks starting at the end of September and going on into October to include internal, (PASC Street Cleansing, Community Safety Wardens), and external, (Police), partners. This planned activity involves responsive and reactive activity for a wide range of issues, including fly-tipping, Graffiti, refuse bins on streets and litter due to parked vehicles. It involves leaflet letterbox drops and ‘knocking on doors’ as well as intensive Street Cleaning Operations to remove graffiti and fly-tips and to cleanse dense urban housing area streets and Netherfield Town Centre. It is hoped this initiative will support local residents and help to improve their environment whilst getting the message out about enviro-crime and the need to recycle.

**Grant Award for Killisick Recreation Ground** - Another FCC Communities Foundation grants bid has been successful for Killisick Recreation Ground which will see the refurbishment of the children’s play area. Tenders for this will be prepared in the New Year and work will start late Spring 2021.

**RESET** - Following the Covid-19 lockdown which ended 2<sup>nd</sup> December, all the Borough’s football matches resumed. Seating adjacent to the Kiosk in AHP and GCP Café remain closed as Tier 3 requirements dictate. Regular cleaning of the toilets and play areas is taking place to ensure Covid-19 compliance.

## **Conserve, enhance, promote and celebrate our heritage**

**Conservation in Bestwood and Lambley** - Reviews have been carried out of conservation area appraisals for Bestwood and Lambley. These appraisals identify the architectural and historic interests of the conservation areas and highlight the specific qualities that contribute to the need for them to be protected and enhanced. The updated appraisals provide a framework against which decisions about future development can be made. The purpose of a conservation area is not to prevent development but instead manage any changes in a way which preserves and enhances the conservation area without harming its special character and appearance. As part of the review, the boundaries of both conservation areas have been reassessed and a number of changes made. The updated appraisals have been created with valuable input from Bestwood and Lambley parish councils and Lambley Local History Society and take into account comments received from the local communities as a result of a consultation carried out in July and August. To view the updated appraisals, visit [www.gedling.gov.uk/conservation](http://www.gedling.gov.uk/conservation)

# HEALTHY lifestyles

## Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities

**Good Boost** - Gedling Leisure department have secured a free trial of an innovative new scheme called Good Boost, which is an activity programme delivered in the swimming pools to help improve the health and fitness of residents with musculoskeletal conditions. The scheme will launch in the New Year at Carlton Forum Leisure Centre.

**ABL partnership** - ABL (A Better Life) is a commissioned service who support the population to maintain healthy lifestyles and make healthier choices. The service support they offer includes weight management, stopping smoking, intensive personalised support and well-being to name just a few. ABL will be going into partnership with Gedling Borough Councils Leisure Service department utilising the leisure facilities as a base to hold their client assessments and activity sessions. Redhill and Carlton Forum leisure facilities are the agreed venues to start with in 2021. ABL work together with partners to reduce costs across health economies delivering outcomes to clients, reduce GP appointments, mental health waiting lists and prescribing costs. Gedling Borough Council will play a part in this by providing up to date, clean and safe facilities with the latest fitness equipment and having friendly knowledgeable staff on hand to help local residents on their journey.

**Social Prescribing and “Your Health, Your Way”** - The Council’s Community Development Coordinator has linked up with Your Health Your Way and other wellbeing services with the local NHS social prescribing system. The collaboration with these three initiatives will expand referral opportunities for link workers. They offer in quitting smoking, weight management, move more, drink less, falls prevention to mention but five.

## Reduce levels of loneliness and isolation

**Launch of the Armed Forces Membership** - On the 11<sup>th</sup> November the Armed Forces Membership was launched to residents of Gedling Borough who are retired or serving members of the armed forces. The membership gives unlimited free access to the borough’s 3 fitness suites, as well as motivational sessions with the gym team and personal programme settings. Since its launch there have been over 100 applications to the scheme and lots of positive comments from eligible customers.

**One Step at a Time** - The need for “One Step at a Time” has been identified directly from the voluntary and statutory sectors reporting that the numbers of people now feeling isolated and lonely has increased as their normal networks of support have decreased or have gone digital (which they cannot or do not want to readily access). Due to shielding and increased risk factors older and vulnerable members of our communities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic resulting in increased social isolation and reduced opportunities for physical activity. Not connecting via digital technology has left them feeling even more isolated and anxious. The Council has supported Jigsaw Homes to deliver a pilot of the One Step at a Time project. Pilots are also being delivered by other organisations in Nottingham City, Mansfield, Ashfield and Bassetlaw and there is a group made up of all delivery partners which reports to the LRF. Volunteers have been connected to tenants of Jigsaw Homes who would benefit from a short walk in their local area to increase their self-confidence in getting out and about and improving levels of physical activity in a safe and managed way. To date, five tenants have been identified with varying levels of need. Eight volunteers have been referred to Jigsaw Homes for matching with tenants and they are being taken through an

induction process and associated checks to enable them to start speaking with and meeting tenants in person.

**Thriving Communities ‘Out of the Blue’** - A bid to the Thriving Communities fund managed by Arts Council England has been submitted by a partnership led by City Arts and including the Council, the Wildlife Trust, Jigsaw Homes and Age Concern. The proposal is for a project, ‘Out of the Blue’, which will use One Step at a Time as a starting point but which will offer guided walks in local green spaces and incorporate creative and heritage themed activities. The project will also link with the South Notts Volunteer Befriending project in terms of developing connections with people in advance of them accessing sessions. The project will create a resource of some kind which can be shared more widely and this will take the form of creative activities to take away and do, resources to assess online or walking guides. A decision on whether the bid has been successful is expected on around 15<sup>th</sup> March.

City Arts have been allocated £27k from Arts Council England for projects addressing loneliness and isolation and the Council intend to work with them on allocating this funding locally, most likely in a similar way as outlined in the ‘Out of the Blue’ proposal.

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