

GEDLING

PLAN

2020-2023

**Examples of Achievements and
Activities**

During

Quarter 3 - 2021/22

Cohesive, Diverse and Safe COMMUNITIES

Promote and encourage pride, good citizenship and participation

Remembrance Events 2021 - Arnold Remembrance event 14/11/21 delivered by GBC Community Relations in collaboration with St Pauls Church and Arnold RBL, and significant support and advice provided to the Gedling and Mapperley Remembrance Events held on 14/11 and 21/11 respectively.

Arnold, Mapperley and Gedling events:

- Countywide Safety Advisory Group liaison and information sharing with community and emergency response partners
- Road closure liaison, commissioning and implementation
- Facilitation of pre-event remedial safety actions
- Event management planning advice provided to Gedling and Mapperley organisers
- Support in the coordination of Civic guests, Emergency response partner and military representative attendance, including deploying the Gedling Youth Mayor at the Gedling and Mapperley events
- Arranging pre event promotion of events

Arnold Remembrance Event:

- Event leadership
- Elected member, church and RBL liaison and coordination
- Full Event Management Plan and Risk Assessment and completion of identified actions
- Orders of proceedings and timings collated and shared: Parade formation, church service arrangements and act of remembrance
- Commissioning of audio and other services
- First Aid deployment
- Event delivery on the day

All three events delivered successfully with high attendance, no incidents reported and excellent feedback from community partners, Elected Members and members of the public alike. Event planning templates, orders of proceedings and commissioning good practice established for the Arnold event that can be adapted and refreshed for future Remembrance events.

Half Term in Newstead event – A successful event took place at the Newstead Centre with a great collaborative effort from local partners to provide activities and engage people in taking part.

- We engaged with 38 children and young people and 20 adults, most of whom took part in creative activities together which were provided by Gedling Play Forum and artists from Nottingham Community Artists Network CIC.
- 10 young people took part in sports and games session provided by Spire Coaching. They have a good track record of working with young people in Newstead, supported by Notts CC Youth Service partners. On finishing their

session all young people who were outside then came in to the Newstead Centre to take in the model making session provided by Nottingham C.A.N.

- Secret Kitchen, a local catering company specialising in social eating projects, were invited to provide lunch for staff, volunteers and families and they fed 25 adults and 36 children over the course of the afternoon. This is the first time a hot meal has been combined with an event that the Council directly deliver and the feedback was that people appreciated this. It no doubt enabled families to stay for longer as snacks and drinks were available throughout the afternoon.

Christmas in Arnold - A number of factors contributed to the reshaping of Christmas activities in Arnold in 2021; The space available for Christmas activities in the Town Centre, the withdrawal of some partners who had previously helped to deliver Christmas events and continued uncertainty around event delivery during the pandemic, all influenced the Council's plans to celebrate Christmas in Arnold and bring people into our Town Centres.

A series of four Christmas markets took place on Sundays in late November and into December. With the Arnold Market Place development ongoing, the fourteen existing market stalls on Eagle Square were made available to Rural Retailer, a company providing markets across the County and Region. As part of their license agreement with the Council, Rural Retailer booked and managed the markets and provided festive entertainment and seasonal food and drink. The markets also encouraged footfall on Sundays in Arnold and local businesses were encouraged to open to make the most of additional trade.

A Christmas Light Switch On event took place outside Arnold Methodist Church with three local schools and a young performer from Calverton all taking part. Arnold and Mapperley Rotary Club attended with Santa and the event was well attended whilst still allowing plenty of space for attendees to circulate. The Communities Team put together an extensive Event Management Plan to replace the work previously undertaken by a Third Party Events provider to ensure the safe management of the Switch on event. Support was provided by GBC Neighbourhood Wardens and local Police colleagues.

Further promotion took place for events managed by Community Partners, including Craft events at Arnold Methodist Church (which ran alongside the Christmas Lights Switch On), Arnold Library and Arnold Fire Station, to contribute towards a month of activity to enhance people's experience of shopping in Arnold over the festive period.

Christmas art work from school children who entered the Mayor's Christmas card competition was displayed outside Arnold Methodist Church improve the appearance of the hoardings around the Arnold Market Place development.

Gedling community money advice developments - Following the Community money advice services meeting held in September with St Wilfred's Church Mapperley, The Kings Church Arnold, The Ark, Carlton Food Bank hub, GBC CSC outreach and CA Nottm and District, CA Nottm and District submitted a successful bid to the NCC Recovery Fund to provide additional debt advice resource in priority areas in the Borough – Newstead, Carlton and Calverton initially identified as target areas for the new service. Further detail to follow in Q4.

Members grants awarded - 38 grants in the region of £16k have been awarded to various community groups for example, Arnold in Bloom, Carlton Forum Swimming Club,

Carlton Town Football Club, Positively Empowered Kids, Radford Care Group, Willow Farm Primary School, Ravenshead Parish Council, Newstead Events Group, Colwick Tots, and Age UK Nottingham & Nottinghamshire.

Community E Newsletters - Three Community E-Newsletters were circulated to 7k community contacts between October and December. Information Shared included Pride of Gelding Awards 2021, Ageing Well Day, Live & Local Nottinghamshire (a live entertainment network), the Help is at Hand bereavement booklet, Health for under 5's, Inspire Autumn Learning programme. Gedling Lotto 1st Birthday, Host Nottingham Clothing bank, In Kind Direct, Create to Connect (a mindful art activity booklet), Tackling Loneliness in Nottinghamshire, Macmillan Beyond Diagnosis Gateway, Healthwatch Community Connector, Netherfield and Killisick FOOD Club volunteer opportunities, Gedling Borough Council's public consultation on Climate Management strategy, CT4N Charitable Trust Services, Arnold Methodist Church Community Kitchen, Memory Cafes.

Gedling Caribbean Elders new engagement - The Caribbean Elders have been connected up with 'Always Community', a charity set up just prior to Covid awarded £10k from Awards For All to deliver sessions bringing culturally diverse speakers together with community groups and Staff Teams and providing world food taster menus, the aim being to foster greater cultural awareness, respect and inclusion. The charity has also been put in touch with Localities Coordinators for Newstead, Killisick Netherfield and Colwick, and referred into the Equalities Action Plan for potential engagement with GBC staff Teams.

Youth Council engagement with Gedling Young People's Consultation - This first face to face meeting since March 2020 received full attendance by current and incoming YC members. Guest speakers Helen Smith, ICP Programme Director and Antonia Smith, Deputy Head of Communications engaged with members on plans for young people's health and wellbeing consultation, and were given positive suggestions including incentives to attend, and youth centric activities i.e. Ice Arena as a venue.

Members signed up to Positively Empowered Kids / Youth Voices initiative, which provides training and leadership opportunities to help develop the YP Consultation Action Plan. Training sessions to be scheduled in the New Year 2022.

Recruitment campaign underway led by NCC Youth Service via youth clubs with local engagement with schools being led by GBC Community Relations. Three new members have joined in Q3.

Reduce poverty and inequality and provide support to the most vulnerable

Approval of new Equality and Diversity Policy - Gedling Borough Council has approved a new Equality and Diversity Policy following consultation with residents and local community groups. The new policy, approved by the council's Cabinet on 7 October, sets out clearly the commitment that the council has to promote equality and diversity both within the organisation and through service delivery and how it aims to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and challenge inequalities.

The policy highlights how the council has already embedded into its corporate plan objectives to reduce poverty and inequality, provide support to the most vulnerable, to improve social mobility and life chances, improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities and reduce levels of loneliness and isolation. The policy also sets out how equalities and diversity will be further embedded across the council and that the council will be more accessible, engaging and listen to the needs of its community. This includes senior leaders, members and officers, acting as ambassadors for equalities and diversity.

The policy includes an action to establish a corporate Strategic Equalities and Diversity Group, chaired by the Portfolio holder for Young People and Equalities, Councillor Viv McCrossen.

The council has been carrying out a number of actions as part of its work to improving equalities, which includes carrying out a Disability Confident Employer assessment, the adoption of the Menopause in the Workplace Policy and the creation of specific roles within the cabinet that focus on equalities.

The policy can be viewed by visiting www.gedling.gov.uk/equality

Temporary Accommodation - since cabinet approval in January for the temporary accommodation options appraisal, officers have been tirelessly viewing suitable accommodation within the borough. Significant progress has been made and 5 successful bids have been made to date. This comprises of a 1 bedroom, 2 two bedroom and 2 three bedroom houses located in either Arnold, Carlton or Gedling areas of the borough. Of these 5 properties, 4 are still progressing through the conveyancing process and we are hopeful they will complete shortly. However, we have now taken ownership of our first property just before the Christmas break. Minor works have been scheduled and we hope to have it ready to let to our first family early in the New Year.

Food Clubs - Netherfield food club continues to provide 30+ food boxes each week for the local community. The alterations have now been made to Killisick Community Centre and the equipment installed, a proposed date for the Food Club to start is Monday 17th January, a number of volunteers have been recruited to support the programme in Killisick.

Community Food Fund - Gedling Borough Council have been successful in application to the Nottinghamshire County Council Community Food Fund and have been awarded £25,000, for the initiative Re-connecting through food. The Community Food Fund has been established to help address some of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the people of Nottinghamshire. Some or all of the following key priorities should be addressed in order to meet the fund criteria; food poverty; sustainability; community development; nutrition and health.

The project *Reconnecting through food* provides an opportunity for Gedling residents to re-engage in community based activities with food and social eating elements attached to them. The project also enables the existing community groups and organisations to offer a food element to their current timetable of activities.

Carlton Hub - Our Customer Services team operate an outreach service to the residents of Carlton which runs alongside the foodbank. Subsequently we can intercept some of our vulnerable residents in this area. The Hub has been operating since the end of November and is already extremely busy. We have built up a strong working relationship with Hope Nottingham which makes referrals for vulnerable residents more efficient and timely. Alongside Hope we are aiming to build up a hub of voluntary organisations who can all work together on humanitarian aid. If a customer from the NG4 area calls to make an appointment these will be taken at the Hub and therefore we do not need to resource the booths in Customer Services on a Tuesday. In addition to this we have also conducted outreach sessions at Newstead and Calverton.

Flood grants - We have now made payment to 10 residents for the DEFRA flood grant. Grants are worth up to £5,000 to help secure properties with flood barriers to prevent future flooding.

Household support grant referrals - 451 referrals have been made since the scheme started. Customer Services have been referring and issuing vouchers to residents who are experiencing

financial hardship this winter. Residents can receive £49 towards help with energy bills, £80 towards help with water bills and £30 per resident in supermarket vouchers of their choice.

Christmas present appeal for children going without this Christmas - Customer Services contacted schools in the Gedling Borough area to ascertain how many children would be going without Christmas presents this year. We then organised a “secret santa” appeal for presents for particular age ranges to ensure that these children would not go without. Presents were then delivered to the schools. We raised over £2,000 worth of presents.

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

Community Safety Advice - Our Anti-social Behaviour Coordinator and Neighbourhood Warden linked up with Operation Reacher to attend the Arnold Christmas Light switch on event to engage with members of the public. We gave advice regarding community safety and also environmental issues such as fly tipping and dog fouling with some useful freebies such as torches with dog bags, purse bells, personal safety alarms and shed alarms. We also addressed Cycle theft and gave out some bike safety chains.

Private Landlord Enforcement - In the quarter 3 a number of Civil Penalty Notice actions were undertaken. A ‘Final Notice’ was issued on 11th October 2021 to a landlord who had failed to apply to licence their property under the Selective Licensing scheme. The landlord did not engage with the investigation and declined to provide information when requested under PACE. A fine of £1,800 was issued in October and payment was made to the council in November 2021.

A ‘Notice of intent’ was served on 30th November 2021 on a landlord owning a flat within Colbrook Place. The flat came to the attention of the department due to a disrepair complaint from the tenant. When visiting to assess for disrepair it was noted that the flat should be licensed but wasn’t. Evidence was gathered and the landlord was written to. The landlord applied to licence the flat soon after contact was made so the flat is now compliant. The ‘Notice of Intent’ proposes a fine of £525. No representation has been received by the council so the ‘Final Notice’ formalising the £525 fine will be issued w/c/ 10th January 2022.

A ‘Notice of intent’ was served on 22nd December 2021 on a letting agent responsible for the licensing of a house on The Elms estate. The fact that the property was operating without a licence had caused a great deal of stress to the tenant who was very happy to cooperate with our investigation. The department worked with the agent to bring about an application for a number of weeks but no application was forthcoming. The agent admitted that it was aware of Selective Licensing and what it entailed and was aware of the scheme in Netherfield since 2018 so a fine of £1,900 was proposed for the breach. We are still in the representation period for the Notice of Intent for this case so the next steps will be determined by whether the agent make a representation to the council or not and if so what issues it raises in that representation.

Review and Publication of the Gambling Policy - In accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 the Council must review its Gambling Policy and amend it if necessary following the procedure laid down in the Act every three years. This process starts approximately 12 months before the policy is due to be published so work started on this in January 2021. Potential amendments were discussed within the Nottinghamshire Authorities Licensing Group (NALG) after consideration of recommendations from the Gambling Commission. A report was then drafted and considered by the Licensing Act Committee who approved the draft amendments to the Policy and resolve to consult on them. The Policy was then sent out for consultation to all relevant bodies and the public. If any comments are received these are considered by Members and any appropriate amendments are made,

however, this year no comments were received. The final Policy is usually referred to full Council for final determination but this year was considered under urgent powers by the Chief Executive and the Mayor as there was not a Council meeting available within the timescale. A notice has been displayed four weeks before publication of the amended policy and the new policy will come into force on 31 January 2022.

High Performing COUNCIL

Improve the customer experience of engaging with the Council

Residents' Survey - The biennial Residents' Survey has now been completed and the results are being analysed. The survey went out to every household in the borough as well as being offered through our "Keep Me Posted" service. In all we had a great response rate with 3,061 completed forms which represents 6% of households. Once analysed the responses will be used to help inform our new Gedling Plan for 2023-27.

Corporate Director recruitment - The recruitment and selection of our new Corporate Director of Environment, Communities and Leisure has been successfully concluded. The new post holder will contribute to many aspects of the Gedling Plan in order to improve the lives of our residents and service users.

Garden Waste Renewal Process Improvements - We currently have around 18,000 customers for the garden scheme. This puts a huge strain on resources during renewal period which in the past clashed with annual billing. We have now automated the garden waste system so that if there are no changes in circumstance the database will automatically update once the customer has made payment, as a consequence the customer can renew online without any contact with GBC. This reduces demand to the call centre and admin burden to waste admin. The renewal process started early in November as oppose to February which has given waste the time to deliver bins early and reduce complaints from customers calling in to chase delivery.

Provide efficient and effective services

Property work - The Revenues Services team has worked hard, despite the loss of resource, to undertake an empty property review and bring all new build administration work up-to-date ensuring an accurate CTB1 return, an accurate taxbase estimate and a significant amount of new homes bonus funding.

New court officer appointment - To ensure resilience in recovery of unpaid debt, the revenues team has concluded the training of the newest Team Leader, as a Magistrates' court prosecutor. This employee has successfully prosecuted her first cases as the Council's representative in the court.

Maintain a positive and supportive working environment and strong employee morale

Staff Survey - The internal biennial staff survey has been completed and the results have been analysed and reported to our Senior Leadership Team. The purpose of the survey is to encourage staff to have their say about what goes well and what doesn't from their perspective so that, where possible, we can make improvements to the ways that we work for the benefit of the employees themselves and the services that we provide to customers and residents.

The Council's Accredited Learning Centre and Apprenticeship Delivery Centre have both now been closed. These centres have delivered training to the Council's own employees and to staff at other local councils. The centres have been an immense success delivering first-rate training with around 250 people receiving management and supervisory training over the last ten years and over the last few years 11 people have achieved apprenticeship qualifications (five at merit level and four at distinction). Although no longer financially viable in the future, up

until their closure the centres have strongly contributed towards the Council's income targets with the first two years of operation delivering a total income of around £30,000 per annum against a target of £20,000.

Agile Working – The rollout of equipment to staff to support agile working is now underway with a number of departments and sections now fully enabled. An interim staff member has been engaged to assist with this and further orders have been placed with suppliers for the required equipment.

National Customer Services Week - This year we celebrated the heart of Customer Service by showing appreciation for all of our frontline staff and raising awareness of basic fundamental aspects needed to deliver great customer service.

Improve use of digital technologies

Projects and Upgrades – A number of projects and upgrades have been completed in IT including Windows 10 migration to a new version, supporting the replacement of bar tills at leisure centres and an upgrade of the Oracle database. A procurement exercise has also been undertaken for a new Microsoft Enterprise Agreement and a new contract has been agreed that will run to 31 December 2024.

Vibrant ECONOMY

Provide more homes

Consultation on revised residential and non-residential car parking standards – this sets out the national and local policy context relating to parking provision for new development in Gedling Borough, and provides a clear framework to set out how parking provision is to be provided. If adopted by the Council, it will be used to determine planning applications. During this quarter, the consultation sought views on the amount of car parking needed in new housing and commercial developments to shape the policy.

Drive business growth, workforce development and job opportunities

Continued business grants work - As well as the ongoing assessment and payment of business grants as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the revenues Services team has been undertaking reconciliations of all the grants schemes and providing those responses to government.

Business grants post payment assurance - Random sample testing of paid grants and post payment assurance responses to the government have begun this quarter and are ongoing.

School Events – The Economic Growth and Regeneration team held two school events, a careers fair at Colonel Frank Seeley and mock interviews at Joseph Whitaker.

Create thriving and vibrant town and local centres

Launch of #Rediscover Campaign - Gedling Borough Council launched a new campaign to get more people to shop in their local town centres. The #Rediscover campaign ran throughout the festive season to support and promote local businesses and also to encourage residents to shop locally this Christmas. This campaign has been funded through the recently announced European Regional Development Fund 'Welcome Back Fund', whose aim is to promote coronavirus safety messages while getting more people to shop locally.

As part of the campaign, Gedling Borough Council launched a new web page for local businesses to promote themselves for free, providing residents with shop overviews, contact details, locations and information about the businesses. The campaign is aimed at getting residents to rediscover old and new local businesses, including all high streets within Gedling Borough following the lifting of lockdown measures. As well as a web page, the funding will be used to improve the look of the town centres visual appearance with plans for temporary signage and decorations to be installed promoting the campaign.

The project is receiving over £100,000 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations.

‘THE AMP’ at Arnold Market Place – Construction works continue to progress on site at pace and on programme. Since the visible construction of the building’s steel frame back in the summer, works have continued to install the first floor and create seven individual ground floor units. The roof has been installed along with stair-cases and brick walls up to the first floor. Power & utilities to serve the new building are also beginning to be installed along Gedling Road. A marketing event and name launch for the AMP took place in autumn which included a new brand, hoarding graphics, website and marketing literature. All enquires are now invited from potential new business’ start ups’ and tenants and managed through the council’s agent. Over the next quarter, the building will receive windows and be fitted out internally. External works will also begin to create the new market place and public space. All works are envisaged to be complete in May with an official opening being planned for early June.

Carlton Square development – The main resurfacing works at Carlton Square car park have been successfully completed. This includes the creation of the new entrance off Burton Road, realignment of the northern car park and the installation of eight new electrical charging points. The scheme also includes a separate service access for deliveries and a safer pedestrian route for accessing the shopping area. Further improvement works are being planned to enhance the shopping area, these include landscaping, street furniture and an additional CCTV cameras. It is hoped these will be completed in the spring.

Sustainable ENVIRONMENT

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

Four Gedling Borough parks recognised with Green Flag Awards - During October, Gedling Country Park, Arnot Hill Park, Burton Road Jubilee Park and for the second year, Bestwood Country Park, joined a record number of parks and green spaces collecting a Green Flag Award - the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

Green Flag Application for Breck Hill Recreation Ground - Gedling Borough Council in partnership with the Friends of Breck Hill have been working on the park's management plan in readiness for submission in January 2022. The submission of the management plan is part of the application process, which consists of the desk assessment (assessment of the management plan) followed by a field assessment in the summer. If awarded the Green Flag Award this will be the Council's 5th awarded park.

Killisick Park Refurbishment – The play Area was completed at the end of October 2021. A formal opening event was held at the beginning of November, attended by the Mayor, local Councillors, members of the friends group, Pinewood Infants School and Killisick Junior School and the grant manager from FCC Communities. New equipment includes a 30m zip line, basket swing, roundabout and multi play unit, as well as accessible play equipment such as a wheelchair friendly roundabout, pod swing, play house and more.

Green Lung Project – large scale tree planting has taken place at Digby Park and Gedling Country Park. The Gedling Borough Council Park Rangers, volunteers from the Friends of Gedling Country Park and students from Nottingham Trent University have planted 650 trees at Gedling Country Park (memorial woodland) 420 of these trees were obtained from Gedling Borough Council's application to the Woodland Trust. The native species include Hawthorn, Rowan, Silver Birch, Dogwood, grey Willow, Oak, Hornbeam, Cherry, Hazel, Dogrose, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Crab Apple, Fruiting Apple, Damson, and Viburnum Opulus. To create diversity in the planting the planting included using varying size whips amongst some larger standard trees (6-8cm & 12-14cms).

420 trees have been planted at Digby Park with a similar range of sizes to Gedling Country Park 400 of the trees are from the woodland trust supplied as small whips. The other trees planted there were 6-8cms to 10-12cms. The Baha Church kindly donated 2 larger standards (Cherry and Field Maple) to the planting scheme. These were planted with their assistance just before Christmas and located adjacent to the entrance and the newly formed Green Lung woodland. Marianne White (a keen advocate of Wildlife within the Borough) also donated a Beautiful Autumn Flowering Cherry which has pride of place in a prominent position near to the Baha Church's trees.

In summary a total of 1070 trees have been planted between October and December. The tree trail at Digby Park is also being scheduled to be planted up with specimen trees during the tree planting season (Oct-March).

Bestwood Country Park – Trees for Climate, Greenwood Community Forest working in partnership with the Friends of Bestwood, Nottinghamshire County Council and Gedling Borough Council will be creating a new woodland measuring 7 hectares in size. Planting is due to take place in February 2022. This follows extensive consultation with the park stakeholders and the RSPB.

Twice weekly conservation volunteering sessions continue with assistance from Gedling Borough Council Park Ranger and additional sessions are being planned in association with the Project Officer of the 'Major to Minor' Sherwood Forest project.

Colwick Rectory Recreation Ground Play Area Refurbishment - Between October and December community consultation has taken place for the play area refurbishment working in partnership with Colwick Parish Council and St John's Primary School. The project is currently out to tender. Once the tender evaluation has taken place a funding application will be submitted to FCC Communities for the refurbishment. The community requirement has identified improved play equipment for age range 3-6 years and additional equipment for older children.

Allotment Leases Review - Work has been undertaken to review the current allotment lease agreements which expired in September 2021. A report with recommendations for renewal leases is to be considered by SLT.

New footpath works at Willow Park, Gedling - Works have been identified and required to create an extension to the footpath in the park, enabling wheelchairs and pushchairs access and egress throughout the site all year round. The project is subject to a successful funding application for Community Infrastructure Levy funding and expected to cost £25,000. The footpath will allow all users to travel between both accesses at Willow Lane and Jessops Lane.

Carlton Hill Recreation Ground Memorial Woodland – Further tree planting has taken place at the memorial woodland at Carlton Hill Recreation Ground. The project organised by The Carlton Hill Community Action Group, who have a team of volunteers enabling the continued tree planting with the assistance from Gedling Borough Council's Parks team.

Parks and Street Care Awards - At the annual APSE Benchmarking awards held in Blackpool in December, our Parks and Street Care team were finalists for 'Best Service Performer - Street Cleansing' and 'Best Service Performer - Parks Services'.

Conserve, enhance, promote and celebrate our heritage

Adoption of the Linby Conservation Area Character Appraisal – this sets out guidance for the preservation and control of change to ensure the Conservation Area continues to retain its special architectural and historic interest. It will be used to inform the consideration of development proposals within the area and sets out broad planning guidance by which the objectives of preserving and enhancing the unique character and appearance of the Conservation Area can be pursued through the planning process.

Promote and protect the environment by minimising pollution and waste and becoming carbon neutral

Green Rewards launch – Gedling Borough Council united with eight other local councils, two universities and creator Jump to launch a Green Rewards scheme to tackle climate crisis. The scheme provides a new Green Rewards app and web platform which means Notts residents can accumulate points and earn the prizes for many activities they do every day at home or out and about that help lower their carbon footprint. It is part of the Universities for Nottingham civic collaboration which aims to improve the way the universities work with each other and their local partners to help change the lives of local people for the better.

Residents can sign up for free at <https://notts.greenrewards.co.uk> or download the Green Rewards app on iOS and Android. In similar fashion to rewards points at retailers, all residents

need to do is log their day to day activities that highlight how they are decreasing the amount of carbon they create, such as:

- Walking to work or school instead of taking the car
- Cycling or using public transport
- Putting your recycling bin out with all the correct recyclables
- Switching off a light or switch at home
- Taking a shower of four minutes or less and many, many more.

Through the Universities for Nottingham initiative partners have pledged to tackle sustainable travel and transport and develop joint programmes to change behaviour, ensuring the lessons learnt are passed on to all in the region. The first collaborative sustainability engagement programme of its kind in the UK, it features the simple carbon-reduction activities that residents can complete. It means Nottinghamshire is the first County in the country to see all its major local authority and education partners collaborate on a climate change reduction project in this way ahead of next month's COP 26, providing an easy to use platform and incentives for all.

Green Homes Retrofit - The Gedling Green Homes Retrofit scheme has continued to progress and all 89 target households have now been identified and determined eligible. 7 properties have been passed to the supply chain to commence installs and the remaining are being priced and assessed by the installers. The Government has extended the date for committed installs to June 2022.

Public Consultation on the draft Climate Management Strategy -

Gedling Borough Council wishes to adapt its Carbon Management Strategy and action plan to reduce carbon emissions and prevent further climate change. Businesses, Environmental Groups, Charity Organisations, Parish Councils, sector partners and members of the general public were invited to take part in a public consultation that ended on January 4th, 2022.

Electric Car Charging Points – Following receipt of additional grants totalling £100,000 from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles and as part of our plans to reduce carbon emissions and improve air pollution in Gedling, we have installed eight electric charging points in the Carlton Town Centre car park. The bays will be available for use by anyone during the day and local residents will have access to charge their cars overnight, with no parking charge, from 6pm until 8am.

HEALTHY lifestyles

Improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities

Food Clubs - Netherfield food club continues to provide 30+ food boxes each week for the local community. The alterations have now been made to Killisick Community Centre and the equipment installed, a proposed date for the Food Club to start is Monday 17th January, a number of volunteers have been recruited to support the programme in Killisick.

Community Food Fund - Gedling Borough Council have been successful in application to the Nottinghamshire County Council Community Food Fund and have been awarded £25,000, for the initiative Re-connecting through food. The Community Food Fund has been established to help address some of the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the people of Nottinghamshire. Some or all of the following key priorities should be addressed in order to meet the fund criteria; food poverty; sustainability; community development; nutrition and health.

The project *Reconnecting through food* provides an opportunity for Gedling residents to re-engage in community based activities with food and social eating elements attached to them. The project also enables the existing community groups and organisations to offer a food element to their current timetable of activities.

Food Safety - Continued good performance by the food safety team. 96% of businesses in borough 4 or 5 rated for hygiene. 137 food hygiene inspections completed in quarter 3 and 39 new businesses supported following registration. Recent press coverage in Nottingham Post reported on 33 zero or 1 rated businesses Nottinghamshire, only 3 of these were in Gedling Borough. The team are monitoring these businesses and working with them to improve hygiene and achieve compliance, one of the businesses featured in the article is suspected to have closed. <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/worst-places-food-hygiene-every-6258188>

Dementia course - Support has been provided by GBC to the Radford Care Group to put on a number of support sessions for Dementia Careers starting in February 2022. The sessions will take place at the Arnold Methodist Church and will also provide respite support for those carers that require it.

Falls prevention application submitted - A joint proposal for NNE Community Falls Prevention Classes has been submitted to the Principia Fund. If successful it is proposed that there will be weekly falls prevention classes in each of the 3 PCN's in the Gedling area of NNE. The weekly classes will take place in community venues that are accessible and will be led by a qualified and experienced instructor.

Wellbeing Walks - The Get Going in Gedling walking scheme has now become affiliated to the Rambler's new Wellbeing Walks programme. There are currently 2 Walks within the scheme (Gedling Country Park and Mapperley). The walks are led by local volunteer walk leaders and run on a weekly basis. The walks attract between 12-20+ walkers each week.

Health and Wellbeing E-Newsletter - Two Health and Wellbeing E-newsletters have been circulated during October and December to over 6000 recipients. Content in the Newsletters included the following: Stress awareness day, HAF - Winterfest, One Step at a time, NHS COVID Vaccine Campaign, Arnold Methodist Church Community Kitchen, Support for dementia

carers, Age UK social prescribing link worker role, Netherfield memory Cafe, Killisick Food Club, ABL – Your health Your Way, Gedling Leisure, and Nottinghamshire Crisis Sanctuaries.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Winterfest - Following a successful summer programme HAF was delivered again in Gedling over the Christmas School Holidays. The following 7 delivery partners provided activities across the Borough: Next Level Coaching at GBC Leisure sites (Calverton and Carlton), The Bonington Theatre (Arnold), Canoville Coaching (Arnold Hill, Play Football), Mapperley All Stars (Gedling), Positively Empowered Communities (Killisick and Newstead Village), JAPC Ltd (Gedling) and Ravenshead out of school club (Ravenshead). As an additional offer to the programme all activity providers were required to provide a hot food offer. Given the Food hygiene implications of ensuring that hot food is served at the right temperature many of the food provides that supported with packed lunches during the summer were not able to help on this occasion. The majority of the sessions we therefore catered by County Enterprise Foods, with Inn the Bank providing food on a bank holiday when County Enterprise Foods were not available.

Carlton Insight: Physical Activity Development in Carlton - Following on from the Community Conversation, several face to face conversations have taken place with Jigsaws Homes tenants from Foxhill Court, Rushcliffe Court and orchard court and further one to one conversations have taken place with local organisations and key contacts. Further conversation will take place in the New Year, it is hoped that many of these will be face to face but this will depend on the Covid restrictions in place.

Support physically active lifestyles

Record numbers for swimming lessons in the borough - Over 3,000 people are taking part in swimming lessons across Gedling Borough Council leisure centres, the highest number of participants since the centres opened. Over half of the swimmers are using Arnold Leisure Centre for lessons, which is seeing its highest membership in its 40 year history. More than 1,500 babies, young children and adults are taking part in lessons ranging from basic water safety awareness to competitive swimming.

Swimming lessons are an essential part of a child's development as it teaches them important skills around water safety and drowning prevention, while also keeping them active. A wide range of lessons for all ages and abilities are being offered at the three leisure sites, Arnold, Carlton Forum and Calverton. The lessons start at the earliest stages with baby and toddler sessions, junior and programmes for people with disabilities right up to adult lessons and private lessons.

The Gedling Swim Stars programme helps children aged 4 and above to progress with their swimming skills through various stages while achieving Swim England badges at each stage. Children who take part in the Gedling Swim Stars programme from stage 3 upwards will be celebrated at a special swimming gala at Arnold Leisure Centre this month.

Outreach Fitness Assessment Events - Gedling Borough Council in partnership with Boditrax and A Better Life carried out drop in fitness assessment service in the Netherfield and Carlton areas. In total, the team carried out 60 individual Boditrax assessments over two separate days. The assessments were carried out with social distancing measures in place and their aim was to encourage local residents to have a health check and to promote that the council's gyms are now reopen and available to use.

Boditrax is a safe, medical device that tells a person how much muscle, fat, bone and water content their body has, as well as how many calories a body needs and other key information

such as BMI which looks at if a person is a healthy weight for their age and height. Following the assessment, residents were given the opportunity to talk to leisure staff and also a representative from the Nottinghamshire wellbeing service “A Better Life” about putting steps in place to improve their health and well-being.

Residents who are members of the council’s gym can access Boditrax assessments as part of their membership. The Boditrax assessments are available at Redhill and Carlton Forum Leisure Centres. More information about these assessments and gym memberships can be found at www.gedling.gov.uk/leisure

Swimming Lesson Gala - Arnold LC hosted the second Gedling Swim Stars fun gala on the run up to Christmas. 85 children on the boroughs learn to swim scheme took part over the 2 days, with medals handed out by the Mayor. One parent said *“James was so excited to take part in such a grown up event. He thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to all the staff who made the session so much fun”*

Pool Maintenance at Calverton and Carlton Forum Leisure Centres - Carlton Forum and Calverton pools underwent essential maintenance during the Christmas period, which involved replacing the media and cleaning the filter. These works ensure that for the long term future, contaminants are efficiently and effectively removed from the pool water system thus in turn allowing the pool water to be of the best possible quality for our users. Having new media also ensures that there is good pool water circulation and this helps to save energy costs as the pool water pumps do not have to work as hard to circulate the water. Other benefits of the new glass media include reduced water usage as backwashing will need to be conducted less frequently than it was previously and a longer life span of the filter media.

Bonington Theatre Lift - The ageing lift at the Bonington Theatre has been fully refurbished and has been available for public use from December. This specialised project took time, as the lift contains many of the original components from when it was first installed in 1981. This included many parts being specifically sourced, rather than being obtained ‘off the shelf’.

Reduce levels of loneliness and isolation

Community Engagement Groups continue to flourish, providing opportunities for local community champions to collaborate with delivery partners to identify and address gaps in local services close to them. The Community Partnerships Manager delivered a fundraising and bid writing best practice presentation to the November Community Development Forum which was well received. Plans for a ‘packed up’ VCS Funding and Capacity Building toolkit now in train.

Giving for Gedling ‘Helping Hands Winter community connecting support booklet - The Winter 21/22 ‘Giving For Gedling Helping Hands booklet, produced in collaboration with community hubs and partners, offered information and elderly inclusive access to a wide range of community based health and wellbeing, social and other support. The booklet was distributed to a wide range of public outlets pre-Christmas 2021, including libraries, GP Surgeries, post offices, supermarkets, community hubs and centres and at Christmas events.