

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### **Report to Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel**

**Date:** 06 February 2024

**Report of:** Assistant Director (Democracy)

**Subject:** LEISURE AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE

#### **SUMMARY**

This report seeks to update Members on a variety of ongoing projects which are being managed within the Leisure and Community function that do not require a full report. This method of reporting will be supported by a presentation which will provide the most up to date summary of the progress of these projects and workstreams.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel notes the contents of the summary report and updates contained within the presentation.

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This report provides Members with an update on the various projects and workstreams currently being managed within the Leisure and Community portfolio.
2. The published report will be further updated by a short presentation delivered to the Panel, which will provide up to date information for each of the projects, thus ensuring that Panel Members receive the most recent status updates.

### **Fareham Live**

1. The construction of Fareham Live is progressing well and the fly-tower roof was completed in December. Intumescent paint (fire proofing) has been applied to all the steel frame, the air handling units have been installed and the air source heat pumps. A new electrical switchboard is in place, many of the windows and doors have been installed, including the feature window in the second venue space. In addition, the internal walls and partitioning is in place to delineate the internal rooms and areas.
2. Works scheduled for January and into February include:
  - Remaining doors and windows to be installed
  - Roller shutter to the stage to be installed
  - Mechanical and electrical installation will continue to be progressed
  - Gold cladding to the mansard roof to be installed
  - Preparatory work for the underfloor heating to be followed by laying the floor screed
  - Brickwork and cladding to the western elevation to be completed
  - Preparatory work for the installation of the theatre seats
  - Installation of the specialist theatre equipment to commence
3. Trafalgar Theatres, who will operate the venue on behalf of the Council via a management agreement, are responsible for all recruitment and have confirmed that one of their existing Theatre Directors will lead Fareham Live and they will join the project team full-time from 1 February.

### **Westbury Manor Museum**

4. As previously reported, in response to economic pressures, Hampshire Cultural Trust carried out a review of its managed venues in 2023, with a specific focus on those venues receiving no local authority funding, this included Westbury Manor Museum.
5. The review concluded that the Museum would not achieve full financial sustainability and would always require a subsidy to be viable.
6. Hampshire Cultural Trust had requested a variation to the 10-year management agreement, but this was not supported at the May 2023 Executive meeting due to the significant level of investment that was initially made by the Council to the Museum in 2017.
7. In December 2023, Hampshire Cultural Trust formally wrote to the Council giving 12 months' notice to terminate the lease and the agreement to operate Westbury Manor Museum, effective from on 31 December 2024. The agreement was not due to end until 2027.

8. The work the Council is currently doing to develop a town centre regeneration plan will now incorporate Westbury Manor Museum and what part the building should play in the long-term future of the town.

### **UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF)**

#### **Crossfell Walk Play Area**

9. Following a public consultation in Autumn 2023, an invitation to tender for this project was issued via the South-East Business Portal, to suppliers listed under Lot 2 of the ESPO Framework Agreement 115 - Outdoor Playground, Fitness & Sports Facilities.
10. A contract for the works was awarded in December 2023 to Wicksteed Leisure with works expected to start in Spring 2024, subject to ground conditions.
11. Improvements to the play area will include the following new items of equipment being added; an inclusive multi-unit, sensory pathway (short pathway made up of different materials creating different textures), an inclusive butterfly play panel, a communications board, speedway roundabout, 2 springies, 2 flat swings, a hammock swing, an adult/toddler facing swing, a surf rider, a spin and bounce see-saw and floor graphics and games.
12. In addition to the new items of play equipment, the existing cycle path that is currently running through the middle of the children's play area will be re-directed.
13. Three new trim trail pieces of equipment including monkey bars, a balancing beam and a wobble bridge will be located just outside of the play area.
14. The existing Multi – Use Games Areas (MUGA) will also be fitted with new play panels and floor graphics including a 3-lane racetrack.
15. A copy of the design illustrations is attached at Appendix A.

#### **Fareham North-West Vision**

16. A significant sum of £800,000 was allocated from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund towards the creation of a community-led masterplan for much needed affordable housing in Fareham North-West. The first phase of which would develop plans for improved community and leisure facilities for this area.
17. To ensure the community facilities meet the needs of the community, and to satisfy the funding requirement for capacity building in the community, the Council has employed a contractor to lead on community engagement to develop a vision for the new facilities.
18. The contractor, Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, have held 2 of the 3 scheduled community workshops, at which requirements for the community space have been identified with the help of local community organisations.
19. The findings of the workshops are then tested with the wider community through voting sheets at the existing Community Centre and on the Let's Talk Fareham social media page.
20. To begin the project, the first element that the community were asked to vote on was

the identification of a name for the new facility.

21. The Council invited people to vote for their favourite from three names:

**Henry Cort Open Space** – in recognition of the geographic area adjacent to the school

**Fareham Park** – to reflect the new ward name of the area which comes into effect for next year's local elections

**Hillson Park** – to reflect the location

22. The overwhelming response with 2,486 of a total of 2,594 responses received, was for Fareham Park, which mirrors the new ward name following the electoral boundary changes this year.

23. Design proposals for the new community facilities will be presented at a special CAT meeting in March.

### **Community Funding**

24. The Council allocates a budget to the Community Fund every year, from which awards can be made to local charitable organisations or individuals representing the community.

25. The Fund was set up to support projects that help local communities or the environment.

26. The scope of the funding is broad, but priorities are clear; the project must benefit many residents, the benefits must be accessible to the wider community (rather than benefitting a select group) and the project must be sustainable.

27. Applications received follow a strict assessment and approval process. Once the full details of the application are received by Officers, a summary of the request is emailed to the Ward Councillors of the area that the project is based for their views and insight. A brief on the application, including the views of the Ward Councillors, is then emailed to the Executive Member for Leisure and Community to identify any further queries that require investigation prior to an official Individual Decision Meeting being scheduled.

28. For several years, the annual budget for the Community Fund has been £95,300. However, following relatively low demand in recent years, the potential for a saving was identified in the Opportunities Plan.

29. From 1 April 2024, the annual budget for the Community Fund will be £50,000 per annum.

30. The Community Fund awards for each CAT area over the last 3 years are listed in the table below:

<b>CAT Area</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
<b>Western Wards</b>	Locks Heath Colts Cricket Club: £2,244.99  Abshot Community Association: £15,000  1 <sup>st</sup> Warsash Sea Scouts: £15,000	Warsash Tennis Club: £4,999  Burrige Sports and Social Club: £4,999  Sarisbury Athletic Club: £2,700	£4,500: Lockwood Community and Sports Association
<b>Titchfield</b>	£10,000: Titchfield Parish Rooms	£3,845: Titchfield Community Association	£0
<b>Crofton</b>	£2,500 VJ Bench Plaque	£0	£4,894.42-The Dementia Care Hub
<b>Fareham Town</b>	Stop Domestic Abuse: £4,999  Dinky Tinkers: £2,880.67	£2,056.05: Funtley Village Society	Fareham Shopmobility: £6,646.98  Fareham Town Youth Football Club: £3,400
<b>Portchester</b>	£4,999: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Portchester Scouts	£0	£4,250: Portchester Sailing Club
<b>Total spent</b>	<b>£57,623.66</b>	<b>£18,599.05</b>	<b>£23,691.40</b>

31. The opportunity to apply for the Council's Community Fund is widely promoted. Press releases are drafted for any significant awards, details are shared with the Borough's community building managers to share with their user groups, Action Hampshire include the Fund in their regular funding update to charitable organisations and, invaluable, Ward Councillors advise local groups and good causes of the opportunity to apply.
32. Ward Councillors are also invited to monitor the projects following completion, to assist Officers with ensuring that money is well spent and that the projects are providing the anticipated benefit to the community.
33. The target for monitoring is 10% of all applications supported. However, this is closer to 100%, with Ward Councillor visits and visits by Officers to the organisation for other matters and, for those that don't already have close links with the Council, focussed Community Fund Monitoring visits by Officers.

## **Fareham Community Lottery**

34. Fareham Community Lottery was established in 2021 by One Community, with the assistance of a Community Fund award for start-up costs by the Council.
35. Its aim is to support local community projects from across the Borough by helping them to raise funds through registering as a good cause in the Fareham Community Lottery. This allows players of the local Lottery to allocate 40p of their £1 ticket towards that community project or organisation.
36. As part of the Community Fund Agreement that formed the initial award, One Community are required to pay the Council 10% of all revenue generated through the Community Lottery which is then added to the Council's Community Fund budget for the year.
37. In addition, as a registered good cause in the Lottery, the Council's Community Fund is also able to receive further income from players, should they either choose to allocate their 40p towards the Community Fund or fail to select an alternative Good Cause to benefit.
38. The table below provides a summary of how the Community Lottery is performing:

	<b>Apr 21-Mar 22</b>	<b>Apr 22-Mar 23</b>	<b>Apr 23-Sept 23</b> (6 months only)
Total tickets sold	1297	1070	1000
Number of causes	69	70	68
Annual ticket sales	£67,444	£55,640	£52,000 (projected at current ticket sales)
Income to Fareham Community Fund	£11,145	£9,343.50	£8,216 (projected at current ticket sales)

39. One Community continues to operate the Fareham Community Lottery despite no longer providing direct support to charitable organisations in the Borough.
40. Officers receive 6-monthly updates on ticket sales, Good Cause numbers and how the Lottery is being promoted.
41. Lottery promotion plans by One Community for the coming year are to post on social media news of significant earnings for Good Causes because of their allocations by Lottery players, a publicity section in Fareham Today and a stall at key community events.

## **Leisure and Community Events**

42. Throughout the year, the Leisure and Community team organise a variety of events and activities across the Borough for all ages, most of which are free to attend.
43. This year, it will be 50 years since the Borough of Fareham was established and some of our regular events will incorporate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo on the event publicity.

44. In addition, a special feature in the popular Bygone Fareham, event that will include vehicles that are 50 years old and Thumbs up Thursday will be replaced with the 'Borough's Birthday Event' which will feature a giant sandpit for the duration of the summer.

45. The Leisure and Community events programme for 2024 will include:

- 999 Day, Saturday 22 June, Fareham Town Centre
- D-Day 80 @ Solent Airport – Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June
- Access All Areas, starts Tuesday 6 August – Thursday 29 August (every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) various locations
- Play Day, Wednesday 9 August, Holly Hill Woodland Park
- Bygone Fareham, Saturday 14 September, Fareham Town Centre
- Christmas lights switch on, Saturday 23 November, Fareham Town Centre
- Plus 4 Artisan and Gift markets run by Funyard events, supported by the Leisure and Community Team - Saturday 2 March, Saturday 25 May, Saturday 28 September and Saturday 26 October

### **Risk Assessment**

46. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

### **Conclusion**

47. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and the updates contained within the accompanying presentation.

**Background Papers:** Project files and correspondence

**Appendices:** - Appendix A – Design illustrations for Crossfell Walk

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Emma Bowler on 01329 824440