

Cllr. Sonja Crisp - Leisure, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Report: 2012/13

Listed below are the key areas of activity that I have progressed over the last year. I will be pleased to discuss these with the committee and provide more detail at the meeting.

Sport and Active Leisure:

- Providing many new programmes of activity, especially in walking, cycling, charity runs, and mass sporting events and new programmes for disabled people and the over 50s.
- Increasing in the number of people with a limiting disability undertaking 3 x 30 minutes of active leisure per week
- Supporting 55 Voluntary sports clubs to gain national accreditation and delivering a programme of voluntary sports opportunities with further funding secured through Sport England
- Bringing £1.2 million of funding to invest in sports pitches and facilities in York
- Expanding the facilities at Energise and growing the customer base.
- Generating new income
- Overseeing the new Active York Strategy for the city which was signed off at the Health and Wellbeing board in December. The Strategy will be presented to Cabinet shortly.
- Securing £253k of National Lottery funding from Sport England's Inclusive Sport fund to increase provision of sport for disabled people.
- Progressing the Community Stadium.

My key priorities going forward in this area will be:

- Delivery of the Stadium
- Procurement of the leisure facilities operator

Arts, Culture and Heritage:

- Running a highly successful 2012 and York 800 programme
- Securing The Arts Development UK 2012 conference for York
- Bringing the TdF to York in July 2014 (with its 100 day cultural festival) which will bring an estimated £100m of economic benefit to the Yorkshire region and the first ever northern full marathon to York

- Successfully establishing two new 5 November events in the city at no cost to the Council Tax payer
- Continuing the development of the Cultural Quarter with progress being made on key cultural infrastructure projects including £1.6m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to create a new state-of-the art home for the city's archive collection
- Boosting income for our markets and the city centre
- Securing innovative public art for West Offices showcasing innovative, new and emerging, local artists funded from £220k of developer contributions
- Ensuring many new events take place.
- Enhancing the Christmas lights with a £20k investment to great acclaim.

Priorities going forward:

- Build on York's growing reputation as an innovative city of the future by encouraging and supporting new and innovative ideas in arts culture, festivals and digital mediums.
- Using LGA connections to share best practice and forge new partnerships and collaborations on a national level.
- UNESCO Creative Cities programme – we will know in May if the UN will be re-commencing this programme
- Developing the City Centre Offer and pursuing the Purple Flag
- Developing Bursaries / Access to arts provision
- Developing Diwali and Christmas lights
- Establishing an Events Network to plan the future events strategy

Tourism:

- Launching the production of a new tourism strategy for the city in partnership with Visit York

Priorities going forward:

- To bring forward the strategy for consultation in May and to develop proposals for new structures that will deliver more effectively across tourism, culture and events

Libraries:

- Keeping all our libraries open and reaching 1.1m visitors per annum

- Securing HLF funding to create a new, state of the art archive
- Opening the country's first reading café – in Rowntree Park
- Increasing digital inclusion through developing skills, encouraging volunteer support and providing wi-fi access
- Bucking the national decline in library use – both visits and book issues: Over half York residents use libraries – highest in the region and our books are borrowed more than most other authorities
- Delivering about 4,000 volunteer hours a year – which puts us in the top 7 performing authorities
- Exploring options for future service delivery using £100,000 of funding obtained from central government.
- Upgrading of the Library IT system took place in November, and the new website and library catalogue went live.

Priorities going forward:

- Developing the business plan for the social enterprise in order to determine its viability

Parks and Open Spaces:

- Keeping 5 green flags for parks
- Making our allotments more successful than ever with growing waiting lists.
- Supporting a successful Yorventure Bid on behalf of The Friends of Chapman's Pond.

Priorities going forward:

- Increasing support to friends groups
- Creating an active recruitment campaign for volunteers to support our parks and open spaces