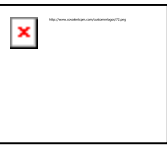


TOURISM, LEISURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO STATEMENT 2014-15

Councillor Jane March



1. Portfolio responsibilities

My role leads on non regeneration led economic development, tourism, overseeing local facilities such as the crematorium, Assembly Hall Theatre, the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, parks and our sports centres. I am responsible for the Farmers' Market and for our frontline services such as those provided by the Tunbridge Wells Gateway and Weald Information Centre in Cranbrook.

2. Functions and services

As Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development I am responsible for all services relating to these areas covering a 2013/14 revenue budget of £2,730,090:

- Economic Development non regeneration
- Tourism
- Farmers Market
- Assembly Hall Theatre
- Museum and Art Gallery
- Public Art
- Leisure
- Parks, Sports Centres
- Tunbridge Wells in Bloom
- Events
- Grants
- Cemeteries & Crematorium
- Customer Access & Gateway

Finally, I am also the Lead Cabinet Member on a range of Partnerships, namely:

- West Kent Partnership
- Royal Tunbridge Wells Retailers' Forum
- Town Centre Business Forum
- Employability Forum
- Cultural Learning Hub Project Board
- Heritage Lottery Funding Project Board for Grosvenor and Hilbert Recreation Ground
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Public Art Board
- Leader Programme

3. Our achievements in 2013-14

- Continued a campaign to improve rural broadband speeds which will see Fibre Broadband availability phased in across Kent
- Developed a strategy for marketing Tunbridge Wells borough
- Developed proposals for a Wi-fi or a 'mesh' network in Royal Tunbridge Wells
- Developed a Cultural Strategy following public consultation
- Delivered an externally funded programme of public art
- Delivered the 2013-14 Community Grants programme
- Gained a silver award in the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom campaign and ran a successful programme locally named 'Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom'
- Developed a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding that saw £2.7m awarded to enhance the appearance and facilities of Grosvenor and Hilbert Recreation ground
- Development of a toolkit to assist community groups to deliver and improve the co-ordination of local events
- Completed the installation of a new lift and public toilets in the Museum & Art Gallery
- Ran a successful Farmers Market in Tunbridge Wells with a free community stall
- 73,174 people were seen at the Council's Gateway with the Gateway maintaining its gold standard

4. Key plans and strategies

Specific plans for which I have responsibility:

- Economic Development Strategy
- West Kent Area Investment Strategy & Action Plan
- Destination Management Plan
- Cultural Strategy
- Museum Audience Development Plan
- Customer Care Programme

5. Our priorities for 2014 -15

- Work with our partners to implement the priorities from the Destination Management Plan
- Develop creative hub workspace to encourage business start ups
- Encourage future growth and investment in Royal Tunbridge Wells through holding an investment conference
- Continue the campaign with Kent County Council to improve rural broadband speeds across the borough
- Develop the concept of a 'cultural and learning hub' in the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells
- Continue to deliver a programme of externally funded public art
- Deliver the 2014-15 programme of Community Grants
- Commence works with Heritage Lottery Funding to provide a Community Orchard, Skate Park, and make improvements to the Dripping Wells and Lake at the Grosvenor and Hilbert Recreation ground
- Implementing a Town Centre Wi-Fi network
- Developing a business case for a second chapel at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium
- Rollout of events toolkit to Parish Councils and Community Groups
- Enabling a range of events across the borough to support a year of local anniversaries

6. Contact

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