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Report Author	Pennines Township Committee Chair
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Report of the Pennines Township Committee Chair

Executive Summary

1. This report provides an update on the recent activity relating to the Pennines Township

Key Points for Consideration

2.

Library Service

All the Pennines Libraries have now reopened and have a range of facilities, activities and events on offer. The ever popular Bookstart Bear and Bookstart Baby sessions are planned to take place in the coming weeks, booking is required at some of the venues.

Smallbridge - The Library reopened on the 16th September, customers have steadily returned to use the full extent of library facilities, the knitting group members hadn't seen each other since March 2020.

The local schools will return to their regular weekly sessions, the invite has been extended to include nurseries too.

Plans are being made to offer a CV workshop and Councillor Surgeries will be restarting again soon.

Activities for October include seasonal themed craft and story times, all events are free and families are encouraged to attend.

Littleborough - Activities and events currently on offer are crochet, walking, watercolour/art groups.

Other regular groups that will also be making a return include genealogy, computer classes, code club and Lego. Library members can also loan toys from the toy Library.

There will be planned themed activities for Halloween and a Gaia exhibition too. The Library is taking part in the Littleborough Scarecrow Festival in October.

Smithy Bridge - The library re-opened for browsing & PC use on Monday 19th July with a slight change to opening hours to include no late night opening but a re-introduction of Saturday morning opening.

The return of regular groups is planned in the coming weeks including The Silver Surfers, the Health Trainer sessions and the Councillors surgeries have already started.

The library is now a food donation centre to supply Rochdale's Community Warehouse to combat food poverty in the borough due to the pandemic. Food donations can be taken to the library during normal opening hours.

There are a range of activities at Wardle and Milnrow Libraries including reading, knitting, local friends groups and special interest groups too.

Community Safety

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers have continued to work in partnership with a number of agencies on a wide range of issues throughout the Covid Pandemic. Working mainly from home, they have continued to provide the same service responding to ASB reports raised via the Web and Contact Centre, a high volume of Covid breaches have also been reported. They hold multi agency Skype meetings dealing with the most vulnerable and complex casework.

The public have continued to report neighbour disputes some of which have involved land and boundary issues, parking issues, encampments and ASB matters including covid breaches.

Community safety products have been distributed at local events e.g. panic attack alarms, light timers, glow in the dark flashing zip clips as the darker nights are now upon us. Officers are now planning for forthcoming seasonal events such as Bonfire Night and Operation Treacle with GMP.

Youth Service

Smallbridge and Milnrow youth clubs have reopened for face to face sessions, the number of participants are steadily increasing in-line with the easing of restrictions. Initially, access to the youth club was via an appointment only, this provided young people with the opportunity to discuss a wide range of personal issues and experiences this included education, school, grief / loss, family, home life, mental and physical wellbeing.

Throughout the year detached work has remained consistent on a weekly basis, this approach enabled staff to maintain and develop relationships with young people and their families and provide additional support where needed, the team also delivered many activity boxes to young people throughout the pandemic.

Young people are currently planning activities for October through to December, current youth sessions are –

Tuesday – Smallbridge and Milnrow

Wednesday - Smallbridge

Wednesday – Wardle/Littleborough detached

Thursday – SEND; 1-2-1 support; detached at Milnrow

Friday – Detached various areas in Pennines

Township News

Meetings - A number of our meetings have restarted and our diaries are filling up, it is really lovely to meet in person again.

Alongside our Township Committees we have service group meetings which allow us to be informed about Environmental Management, Highways and Street Lighting Services. We are kept up to date with work and seasonal programmes.

We also have regular regeneration meetings, these meetings give us the knowledge to be able to respond to residents and assists us in our community roles. We are

also kept informed of the wider regeneration in Rochdale Town Centre and Kingsway Business Park.

Our meetings with the local policing team have also resumed, we are now up to date with the staff covering the Pennines and with local priorities. Investigations are ongoing into the recent serious crimes.

Being equipped with all this local knowledge is invaluable, we like to work in close partnership with Officers from RBC and GMP.

We are undergoing a review of our local community meetings, we want to offer a more flexible way of engaging with residents to address their issues.

Littleborough

A new CCTV camera system will be installed at the skate park in Hare Hill Park, the system will cover the wider area including the newly opened Star Tree Studio in the former Gig House. It has been a long campaign and Ward Councillors are pleased that the camera has finally been ordered and installation will follow soon.

Milnrow

Resident Watch community group held their first family fun day on Sunday 19 September, the theme for their inaugural event was resilience. There were lots of information stalls and activities along with the emergency services who engaged with the local community. The message for the event was to continue growing stronger and resilient communities, building on what started as a result of the beast from the east.

Smallbridge

A series of four Environmental Action Days recently took place on the Smallbridge Estate, teams from RBH and RBC joined forces to improve the environment across the neighbourhood. The areas have had an intense programme of weed removal, litter pick and shrub maintenance work which has greatly improved the look and feel of the community making it a nicer place for everyone.

I was able to thank the Pennines Clean and Green, who undertook a large part of the work, they are an asset to the Township and wider Borough.

Wardle

Wardle Football Club finally have their new pitch extension, the club's chairman has tirelessly campaigned for the pitch for a number of years. Grassroots football is at the heart of Rutherford Park and will be for a number of years to come the facility is a great community asset.

Councillor Amna Mir Township Committee Chair

Thank you Mr. Mayor, I will be pleased to answer any questions from Members of the Council about these or any other matter relating to the Township