

Halesowen Area Committee – 12th September 2006

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Town Centres Management

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Halesowen Area Committee on the service provided by the Town Centre Management Service in relation to Halesowen Town Centre.

Background

2. Town Centre Management supports the six priority themes of the Council Plan 2005/6 which are Caring, Regeneration, Environment, Safety, Learning and Quality of Service Matters and is committed to its delivery. This will be achieved by listening to what people say, responding to what local people tell us, be accountable for performance and providing value for money. The Town Centre Management service strives to meet all the council priorities through the service and support it provides to the local community.
3. The information contained in this report provides a summary of progress made by the team since the last report presented on the 28th June 2006.

Town Centre Infrastructure

4. Following requests from retailers, pollarding of trees has now taken place in Peckingham Street.
5. By the time of the presentation of this report the repainting of town centre lamp posts should have commenced on the Queensway.
6. As reported previously at the last Halesowen Area Committee (28th June 2006) resources have now been allocated for the purchase and installation of additional permanent and removable bollards at the Great Cornbow and the corner of High Street and Hagley Road for the control of vehicle access to pedestrianised areas.

School Summer Holiday Activities

7. During the School Summer holidays, the Town Centre Management Team brought the following free activities for children to Somers Square, Halesowen:
 - Games Arena on Friday 28th July 2006
 - Crazy Golf on Saturday 1st August 2006

- Play Trailer on Saturday 5th August 2006
- Garden Games on Wednesday 9th August 2006
- Mr Topples Wednesday 16th August 2006
- Climbing Wall and Space ball Saturday 19th August 2006
- Kangaroo Boxing Tuesday 22nd August 2006
- Crazy Golf Friday 25th August 2006
- Play Trailer Wednesday 30th August 2006
- Beacon Bouncer Thursday 31st August 2006
- Games Arena Friday 1st September 2006

Halesowen College Entertains 29th & 30th June 2006

8. As a result of last years brief but well received concert students from Halesowen College Performing Arts Department returned to perform for two days in Somers Square to entertain with a variety of music, song and dance. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have asked to return next year.

Halesowen in Bloom

9. Halesowen Chamber of Trade and the Halesowen in Bloom Committee wish to express their gratitude to Halesowen Area Committee for their support. The planters were delivered at the beginning of both July and August. This is the first year for Halesowen in Bloom and this will be a project that will grow from strength to strength over time.

Halesowen by the Sea!

10. The event took place on Saturday 12th August, 2006 and was attended by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor John Woodall.

The event included a wide range of seaside activities. Bunting was erected throughout the town centre with donkey rides, face painting, a sand pit and Punch and Judy. Halesowen sticks of rock were given out and other entertainment was provided by Dave Dees mobile disco, Robbie the Pirate, a deep sea diver and Neptune and Mermaid. Halesowen Swimming Baths offered free admittance for children provided they were accompanied by a paying adult.

The event also featured an Atlantic 21 lifeboat courtesy of the RNLI and the ever popular Farmers Market took place.

Halesowen's business community played a major part in supporting the day.

Halesowen Chamber of Trade purchased and provided buckets and spades for the sand pit. West Midlands Co-op travel held a colouring in competition with a

prize of three free family day passes at Butlins. W H Smiths, Woolworths, Thorntons Chocolates and the "Fragrance Shop" also offered prizes on the day.

Finance

11. The activities discussed in this report are delivered from existing budgets.

Law

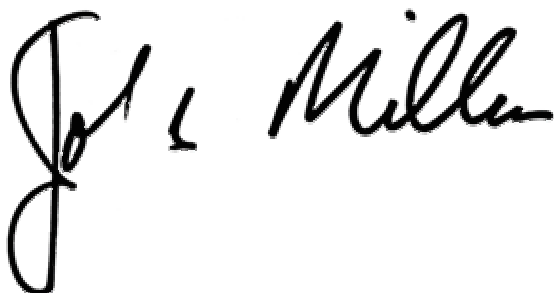
12. The promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area is supported by Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Equality Impact

13. A primary role of the Town Centre Management Service is to encourage inclusivity amongst all sectors of the community, including the needs of children and young people.

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that the contents of this report are noted and that reports are provided at future meetings on the activities of the Town Centre Development Service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Millar'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'John' written in a stylized, overlapping manner.

John Millar
Director of Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

None