

# Scrutiny Briefing Note

The Tourism and Visitor Economy Panel have asked to monitor progress on Heritage and Culture across North East Lincolnshire.

This briefing contains the latest position as at 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## **Subject: Making the most of our culture and heritage assets, review of culture and heritage activity in 2020**

This paper provides a summary of progress of North East Lincolnshire Council and partners in the delivery of the Culture and Heritage Framework for North East Lincolnshire in 2020. It is noted that the panel in recent meetings have received updates regarding the progress of the Cleethorpes Townscape Heritage programme, Grimsby Creates (Cultural Development Fund) and the Great Grimsby Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) and it is not intended to give a comprehensive overview of these programmes, rather provide an overall summary of collective achievements, challenges and ambitions for culture and heritage.

The impact on North East Lincolnshire's heritage and culture sector by the COVID-19 pandemic has been severe, with venues shut, events cancelled and freelancers working in the sector unable to work. Naturally, this has seen significant knock-on impacts socially and economically. However, against this challenging backdrop significant progress has been made with new ways of working, heritage placed front and centre of Grimsby's town centre masterplan and major grants being secured to support local organisations come back stronger.

The report highlights three areas of positive change in 2020.

- New ways of working
- New funding
- New partnerships

### **New ways of working**

- **Digital**
  - Delivery mode shifted to online content e.g. Heritage Open Days in September showcased Cleethorpes Town Hall & the Kasbah, online dance classes with Joanne Clifton (by The Culture House) and Lincs Inspire's activities.
- **Trails**
  - Activities also changed to trails encouraging people to get out and about in a COVID safe way and be creative in their own homes and businesses. This saw



the first Winter Wonderland in Cleethorpes and 'Monster & Pebble' and Penguin shop trails.

- **Remote**

- Remote working has enabled non locals to add value and change dynamic of meetings bringing expertise from organisations such as Without Walls and Freedom Festival.

- **Drive In**

- Docks Beers, Event Show Support & Sound & Light collaborated to deliver a drive-in movie experience in July.

### **New funding**

Culture and Heritage organisations have received a welcome and necessary boost from Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Cultural Recovery Fund in 2020. The development of many of these successful funding bids have been supported by NELC and Engie staff. This has seen unprecedented levels of support for projects across the Borough. This has included:

#### **National Lottery Heritage Fund**

- £250,000 to support development of heritage projects across NEL.
- £647,200 for Petersons Smokehouse (Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust)
- £10,000 each for three projects (The Kasbah, Our Big Picture and the Fishing Heritage Centre) from the Digital Confidence Fund

#### **Cultural Recovery Fund (Arts Council England)**

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced £1.4bn support for creative organisations to enable them to survive as a result of not being able to operate during the pandemic. In North East Lincolnshire the following organisations received support:

- Lincs Inspire for Grimsby Auditorium = £232,926
- Docks Academy = £56,248
- NELC for the Fishing Heritage Centre = £75,000
- Event Show Support = £67,650
- Culture House = £59,937
- Moon on the Water = £93,956



## **Cultural Recovery Fund (Heritage)**

The following organisations received support for heritage focused projects:

- North East Lincolnshire Council for Time Trap = £60,000
- Grimsby Minster = £182,900 + £81,860 for two separate projects

## **Creative Civic Change**

Creative Civic Change is an experimental funding programme delivered by a range of funders which supports 14 programmes across England by putting creativity at the heart of community engagement. East Marsh Untied were awarded £200,000.

## **Arts Council England**

Arts Council England have continued to support artists and arts organisations working in North East Lincolnshire. This has included, Lisa February and Matt Gray who were successful in their first application for £13,465 to develop their theatrical practice. This followed Lisa's attendance at the National Arts Fundraising School funded by Grimsby Creates.

## **Architectural Heritage Fund**

As part of the overall £1m+ project for the redevelopment of the Petersons Smokehouse. Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust were successful receiving £300,000 from the Architectural Heritage Fund.

## **New Partnerships**

2020 new ways of working which has enabled more people to participate and lead conversations regarding culture and heritage across NEL. This has helped enhance communication and collaboration providing strong foundations for future projects. This has included:

## **Grimsby Creates**

- A new sub group structure bringing more people building on local expertise in creative sector and beyond.
- New projects building new links between local people and internationally recognised partners (e.g. Magna Vitae led People Powered Partnership and Festival of the Sea)

## **Local Cultural Education Partnership**

A local cultural education partnership has been established with the support of :IVE. This brings together organisations seeking to enrich the creative education for young people and their families. This has supported the distribution of books as part of the Summer Reading Challenge and craft packs this winter.



## **Engagement with Lincolnshire wide conversations**

Working with colleagues across Lincolnshire organisations in NEL and NELC are now active participants in Greater Lincolnshire helping to build new creative connections through the Lincolnshire Creative Hub and SO Festival networks.

## **Looking Forward**

As reflected above COVID 19 has created a massive change in how audiences have engaged with culture and heritage and it is unclear what this may mean in the future. It is important that projects that NELC and our partners deliver going forward reflect these changes and consider how audiences can enjoy culture and heritage to enhance their health and wellbeing, build civic pride and when conditions allow support the economy by bringing people to events.

It is planned to build a Culture and Heritage Board to oversee a refreshed Culture and Heritage Framework to bring creativity to the fore of the continued regeneration of the Borough. In doing so, we will build the confidence of the creative sector, enhancing leadership, build new opportunities and work to showcase how North East Lincolnshire has helped shaped the world.

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