

Summary of Summer Activities 2023

AGENDA 5a, Enc vi)

In June of this year Ashington Town Council agreed a budget totalling £7,380 for activities over the school summer holidays.

The following summary gives a brief overview of how the activities were received and budget costs for each.

Hirst Welfare Family Fun Day

The Family Fun Day took place on Saturday 12th August at the Hirst Welfare, 10am to 3pm.

As well as ATC supporting the event with funding of £3,000, ATC had a stall indoors where those attending could guess the teddy's name, receive information on upcoming events and use our very popular selfie frame.

The event was organised by NCC's Get Onside Team, along with several other organisations including Wansbeck Community Links and Northumberland Communities Together.

The event was a huge success with approximately 400 people attending the fun packed day. The weather was not too bad with only a few showers throughout the day.

Feedback was positive and children enjoyed a good selection of activities and displays to take part in. The Charity Walking Football Festival organised by Ashington Town FC Walking Football Groups (Men's & Ladies) raised hundreds of pounds for Dementia UK and MIND.

Ashington Family Hub

In June, Ashington Town Council agreed funding of £2,380 to support Ashington Family Hub address gaps in summer holiday activities across the town.

The Communications and Engagement Officer met with the Ashington Family Hub to identify any activities they would like to provide for families and young people, if funds were available.

The programme of events was designed to complement what was already on offer in the town, to bring family groups together, and most specifically to help families with the financial pressures of finding things to do in the holidays. The activities provided are outside of the widely publicised Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF), and therefore the Council's funding was fundamental to them going ahead.

Ashington Town Council funded two trips, one to South Shields and another to Alnwick Gardens. At home in the Ashington Family Hub, we have funded a weekly brunch club. Families have enjoyed a café style brunch menu alongside indoor and outdoor games. The social aspect of this is very important, as the summer holidays can be quite isolating for some as many of the usual stay and play groups are not on.

On 18th August the Ashington Family Hub hosted Animal Antics from 10am until 11:30am, funded by Ashington Town Council, and later a Graffiti Workshop for older children.

Bus Trip to South Shields

£450

A 52-seater coach took families on a trip to South Shields. Unfortunately, it rained all day but didn't dampen the spirits of those attending.

Bus Trip to Alwick Gardens £450

A 52-seater took families on a trip to Alwick Gardens. This trip took place last week and still awaiting feedback from the Family Hub.

Animal Antics & Graffiti Workshop £480

Numbers and feedback to follow.

Brunch Club £1,000

The Brunch Club proved very popular with families. Over five sessions 110 adults and children attended.



Station Road Summer Activities

Koast Radio was the first to kick off our summer activities playing music for shoppers and taking requests via a live broadcast on Station Road. It is difficult to estimate numbers due to the type of activity, but the team engaged with approximately 20 people, and approximately 300 people were on the main street that day.

Feedback was mainly positive; however, some shops did complain about the noise.



Captain Raggy Beard entertained children in the SCOPE shop due to the wet weather.

Due to the weather, numbers were not high on the main street, however, Captain Raggy Beard was able to engage with 18 children throughout the three hour session.

Captain Raggy Beard commented; *“The Captain wishes to thank Ashington Council & Scope on Station Road for a lovely day (Apart from the weather).*

Scott and his team looked after me exceptionally well and I met some fantastic families throughout the day.

The Scope staff thought I was on commission, as I dragged passing children and parents in, to listen to my tales. They all said they loved it!”



Northumberland Wildlife Trust facilitated some nature crafts as well as a nature memory tree and they also had a laptop set up with camera trap footage.

Numbers of children were not high on the street that day, however the team managed to engage with approximately 15 children and 30 adults.

commented; *“We had some lovely engagement with people passing down the high street who were particularly interested in the specimens we had on display. Everyone loved the hedgehog! There weren’t quite as many children or young people passing by as I expected - perhaps parks would be better for that. The boards we had with question prompts of*

'what's your favourite thing about nature' and 'what's your favourite green space' were good to encourage people to come over and kickstart conversations”.

Here is a link to a short video on the day; <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tb-uRXL-YbZx4Tiq8KobOBjRR6ctWBg/view?usp=sharing>

Control & Move Fitness attended the last two Saturdays of the school holidays.

The two sessions went really well. Parents were delighted to see the activity on the main street, as their children were looking to join gymnastics or other fitness clubs. Children got the chance to learn some balancing tricks on the suspended hoop and juggling. Ashington Library at the Leisure Centre agreed to be on standby if rained for both sessions.

Over the two sessions Catherine and TJ managed to engage with approximately 40 children.

