

Councillor Representation Reporting Form

Councillor: Deborah Ray

Body: First Light Festival Steering Group

Report Date: 26th April 2024

**Meetings
attended and
dates**

First Light Festival Steering Group - 11th April 2024

Attendees: Genevieve Christie - FLF, Lizzie Hall - FLF, Jo Everett - FLF, Phil Aves - Lowestoft Rising, Joshua Freemantle – ACT, Stephen Dye – CEFAS, Kim Boundy – Friends of Kensington Gardens, Des Reynolds – Seagull Theatre, Mark Jackson – Suffolk Police, Angela Grey – Lowestoft Vision, Deborah Ray – Lowestoft Town Council, Rachel Bunn – East Coast College - via Teams, Sue Medley ESC Communities – via Teams.

Apologies: Sonia Barker LTC, David Lawrence Kirkley Peoples Forum

**Key issues
discussed at
the
meeting(s)
(relevant to
LTC and its
constituents)**

Festival Update - The Festival Programme is now online.

Timings:

Saturday 22nd June - noon to 9.30pm.

Followed by Sundown ticketed events to 2am at Seagull theatre, East Point Pavilion, Mossy's Nightclub, Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club and un-ticketed St Peter and St Johns Church.

Sunday 23rd June, recommences at 3.30am on the beach with a piper, yoga class, shell art and DJ with the main events starting at 10am, closing at 4pm.

Festival Layout:

The main change to the festival layout - the Planet Positive area has moved from its previous position on the Kensington Gardens bowling green to the beach. The organisations represented will include CEFAS, the Natural History Museum, UEA and Norwich Astronomical Society.

The Power Positive area will include interactive displays from Siemens, East Coast College, Sizewell, and possibly the National Grid.

Messums East will have a marquee with artists and practical activities related to art.

The Interstellar Ideas marquee will include mapping to incorporate the festival theme of Cardinal Points. The climate crisis theatre piece, Phoenix, Dodo, Butterfly will also be performed in this arena.

There will be a charity supermarket working with MA students from Norwich University of the Arts, demonstrating how to upcycle used clothes to prolong their life. Members of the community will be invited to model the upcycled clothes on a catwalk.

Children will be catered for in the Cosmic Pirate Zone with Lowestoft Library involved in workshops.

Wellbeing and mental health will be catered for in the Wellbeing by the Waves and Soul Space areas.

There will be food and drink on the beach and on the upper promenade with the makers market, supported by local businesses.

There will be a dawn walk on Sunday morning with St Elizabeth's Hospice. Walkers will be bussed to Kessingland from East Point Pavilion then walk back to Lowestoft.

At the Northern end of the festival site will be Laurence Edwards 8ft tall sculptures of five walking men.

Kensington Gardens will host the Garden Stage with several Lowestoft based musicians and East Suffolk One radio, an exhibition by the Easterly Artists group and Weather Vane Art. There will not be anything in the boating lake to avoid disturbing the wildlife.

Pastoral Care:

Young children will be issued with wristbands to record parents/carers' telephone numbers. These can be collected from the Kids Hub gazebo. Local group Re-Utilise are creating a flag for the gazebo.

There will be an Inspire Suffolk Bus to engage teenagers. There will also be a 'Teen Ranger Team' of outreach workers to look out for youngsters and vulnerable adults. The aim is to engage teenagers with the festival.

Volunteers are required to assist with all areas of the festival – 4 hours over the weekend.

Community Projects:

The opening parade will have two new puppets made by Norwich Puppet Theatre. Local schools have been engaged to produce art related to the Cardinal Points and seashells and will join the opening parade.

Site Update – A store is required. Friends of Kensington Gardens were approached to use their store. They advised there is not much space as Friends of Fen Park also use it. The cafe uses the boathouse as storage. It was suggested that a beach hut is used.

There will be various tents for festival management: Production, Security, First Aid and Communications. They will be positioned in one area and powered by solar panels.

Representative Comments:

The representative from Friends of Kensington Gardens mentioned the Lowestoft Town Council Big Green Weekend event the weekend before the FLF and asked whether any of the steering group knew of 'green' stallholders to get involved in the Kensington Gardens portion of the weekend, on the Sunday.

The CEFAS representative mentioned that moving the Planet Positive area to the beach has become more of a problem as they have a disabled volunteer who may have issues accessing the area. The gaps in the walls are not wide enough for their wheelchair. It was mentioned that beach wheelchairs are available.

The Lowestoft Vision representative mentioned that all events can be added to their website which has over 10,000 followers on social media. She mentioned they will be happy to promote the LTC Big Green Weekend and any other LTC events.

The Seagull theatre representative offered the use of the car park to the First Light team.

The Lowestoft Police representative advised that the police will be in attendance during the festival. They asked whether there have been any negative responses regarding the inclusion of Sizewell and the National Grid in the Festival. First Light representatives advised there hadn't and stated that their inclusion will give the public an opportunity to engage with these organisations.

**Any actions
required by
LTC?**

Volunteers are required to assist with all areas of the Festival.

Signed: D RAY

Date: 26th April 2024