

Report Title:	The Norden Farm Centre Trust Limited (NFCT)
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Lead Member:	Councillor Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Council, Resident and Leisure Services, HR, IT, Legal, Performance Management and Windsor; Armed Forces Champion
Meeting and Date:	Communities Overview & Scrutiny 8 March 2021
Responsible Officer(s):	Steph James, Maidenhead Town Manager
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

Jane Corry, Chief Executive and Artistic Director has prepared a report on activities at NFCT in 2019-2020 and the centres response to the Covid-19 pandemic including the move to on-line and delivery of digital outreach projects when the centre was forced to close.

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Norden Farm Centre for the Arts Ltd have been running the arts provision in Maidenhead since 2000.
- 1.2 NFCT celebrated its 20th Birthday in 2020 and has continued to operate a varied programme despite Covid-19 and lockdowns which have forced the centre to close to the public.
- 1.3 The centre aims to... 'offer a wide range of high-quality artistic events and participatory and educational activities that are accessible to all.'

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Norden Farm Centre for the Arts is a theatre venue in Maidenhead with live events, gallery and café bar.

- 2.2 NFCT creates a diverse programme for residents and visitors. NFCT has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by delivering a comprehensive programme of events on-line whilst the centre has had to close.
- 2.3 NFCT continues to increase its outreach programme of educational activities and working with vulnerable community groups. Covid-19 did not stop this outreach programme which moved to a digital delivery model to continue to support the community.
- 2.4 This report updates on the activities of NFCT following the AGM held in December 2020.

3 RISKS

- 3.1 NFCT is reliant on grant funding from the council. In the 2021/22 budget the council has had to make significant savings which include a reduction in the amount of funding available to the arts in the borough.
- 3.2 In 2021/22 NFCT will receive two quarters of SLA funding totalling £64k. In addition, a sum of £50k has been set aside for arts organisations to bid for in order to develop further funding streams.
- 3.3 COVID-19 impact on the centre's closure and operation

4 NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Recommend that NFCT present at the next Communities Overview & Scrutiny meeting on plans for 2021/22 now that the roadmap to re-opening has been announced by central Government.