

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### 1. Planning and Development

- On 5th February, Committee approved the drive-through restaurant (with servicing, car park and landscaping) for Kentucky Fried Chicken on the site adjoining Aldi at the Parkway Centre, Coulby Newham.
- At the meeting on 4th March, Committee considered and approved the demolition of the shops and flats, together with the car repairs garage at the Newbridge Court (the Rievalux Drive shops next to the retained Endeavour Public House). The proposal is for a rebuild on the same footprint, to form a ground floor convenience store and two smaller shops, with 21 flats on the 1st and 2nd floors and the formation of 36 car parking spaces. The scheme has generally been well received by the residents and Community Council.
- Work has commenced on the demolition of the rear outbuildings to 15-25 Albert Road, to facilitate conversion of the building fronting Albert Road to ground floor restaurant/office with flats at the upper storeys.
- The Charles Clinkard development at Cannon Park is entering its final phase of construction, now that the car park and boundary walls are complete. A formal opening will take place in April 2016.
- Similarly, the welding institute development at Riverside Park road has taken its place at the Middlesbrough sky line and is now at the fitting out stage.

### 2. Access Funds – Tees Valley

The Department for Transport has made £20m of funding available for 2016/17 to Local Authorities outside of London, for projects that will support the local economy, reduce congestion, reduce carbon and improve the reliability and predictability of journey times. Middlesbrough is part of a Tees Valley bid under the combined transport authority.

The bid is worth £1m, and continues a number of current (successful) projects, including:

- The Town Rider bus service in partnership with Middlesbrough College; providing a service to Riverside Park in Middlesbrough, which is otherwise un-served
- Continued support toward Active Travel hubs across the region (Middlesbrough Cycle Centre). The hubs continue to deliver a range of projects including upskilling residents, recycling bikes and delivering safety training.
- Continuation and expansion of the Independent Travel Training programme, providing residents with disabilities the skills to make their own sustainable transport journeys to education, employment, training and retail/leisure opportunities.
- Marketing, promotion and personalised travel planning for across the Tees Valley, allowing 'smarter choices' to be at the forefront of people's minds.
- IT solutions involving expansion of the travel planning website [www.connectteesvalley.com](http://www.connectteesvalley.com); the portal for transport needs in the Tees Valley.

Announcements on successful bids are scheduled for late April. If successful, this will act as a transition period whilst the longer term proposals from the DfT are compiled and announced.

### **3. Orange Pip Market**

A brand new artisan street food market is coming to town bringing influences from around the world to the heart of Middlesbrough. Orange Pip Market – at the heart of the town's bustling Baker Street - will feature around 25 independent food vendors as well as arts, culture and entertainment.

Market organisers have cherry-picked the best in farmer's markets, continental markets and street food festivals, alongside live music from up-and-coming artists, pop-up arts workshops and street theatre.

Treats in store for hungry shoppers include vintage style tea and cakes from Lotti's Voluptuous Delights, artisan scotch eggs from The Clucking Pig and Elodie Raclette serving up the traditional melted cheese and potato dish from the Savoie region of the Alps.

Orange Pip launches on Saturday, May 28, and will run on the last Saturday of every month from noon to 7pm,

Influences on the development of the new arrival include Maltby Street, Broadway and Borough Markets in London as well as overseas attractions such as Brooklyn Flea in New York, Marché Raspail in Paris and Berlin's Street Food Thursdays.

The market will also feature a comfortable seating area for visitors to hang out, eat their purchases and take in the atmosphere.

Long term plans see the market widening out to neighbouring Bedford Street which is buzzing with new food and beverage businesses preparing to spring to life over the coming month.

### **4. Grove Hill Developer Procurement**

The procurement process has commenced, the objective being to find a development partner(s) for the Bishopton Road site and the wider 'triangle' site in the centre of Grove Hill. A market engagement event took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March, where those interested came along to ask questions of Thirteen and Council staff. The process is estimated to take up to 12 months, depending on the level of interest received.

### **5. Middlesbrough Economic Growth Headlines**

Middlesbrough based film production company, Ithica Films, has expanded its team as part of plans to build on a successful 12 months.

Two new jobs have been created at Eighty8 Design following an investment from fellow Tees Valley company Viral Effect. More new jobs are expected to follow in the coming months.

IT communications company Agile Group is to open a 4,000 square foot data centre on Teesside which will allow businesses to store equipment and data in a safe and secured undisclosed location with services available including data backup, co-location of server equipment and email hosting. The company is also working closely with Steve Cochrane the MD of Psyche for IT support services and equipment. Due to ongoing demand Psyche is planning to increase its online operations and is set to take advantage of business support growth funds to expand its staff and equipment.

North East construction firm has relocated its drainage services division into a new flagship facility in Middlesbrough. Part of The Owen Pugh Group, HCS Drain Services has relocated into Riverside Park.

Directors of two companies within Middlesbrough's Boho 5 creative hub have joined forces to form a new print Boho Print. The company offers print brokerage, print management and design services.

The Tees Valley Best New Business Awards were held in February. Many Middlesbrough businesses did well with several shortlisted and coming out winners as follows. Nosh Kitchen took best new retailer and overall winner, with Ithica Films best new Creative & Digital Media. Café Pierre Languages based in the Multimedia Centre was awarded best new small business.

Unemployment claimant count has increased to 4.9% (from 4.6%), with an increase for the 18-24 yrs to 6.0% (from 5.6%).

## **6. Tour de Yorkshire – Sponsorship Packages**

Middlesbrough Council have presented at a number of business shows and events to promote our range of sponsorship packages designed to encourage businesses to get involved with the Tour de Yorkshire main event and the Enjoy the Ride festival. Interest has been received from a number of packages with Hill St Centre and several businesses taking up the 100 club option. A second roadshow is being planned for 16th March to promote the confirmed route and activities to both residents and businesses. Key improvements along Albert Road/Borough Road to improve the route have now been highlighted and will be addressed with the building owners and retailers over the next month. Regular press around the event is scheduled and the sporting activities/festival events are in the final planning stages.

## **7. Enterprise Zone**

A new Enterprise Zone covering the cultural quarter within Middlesbrough Town Centre, supporting the inward investment of digital and creative businesses to the area will be launched in April 2016, supporting the existing digital cluster already firmly established in the town. The zone (as shown in appendix 1), will form part of the newly enlarged Tees Valley Enterprise Zone and eligible companies moving into the zone will benefit from business rate reliefs, up to a maximum of £55,000 per annum.

It is anticipated that the new Enterprise Zone will incentivise businesses to move into the Town Centre, creating jobs and enhancing the local economy. In addition to the economic benefits, Government will fund the business rate reliefs, whilst also ensuring Middlesbrough Council receives the equivalent business rates income, therefore ensuring no financial risk to the Council.