

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 13th July 2016

Culture

1. **Tour de Yorkshire**

Securing the Tour de Yorkshire was a major coup for Middlesbrough, and we – Middlesbrough Council, community groups and others – delivered a fantastic weekend of events, attracting huge crowds despite the rain. We received excellent feedback about the event and Welcome to Yorkshire reported recorded crowds of circa 100,000 along the Middlesbrough route. The weekend concluded with a Criterium organised by Cleveland Wheelers.

The event was about promoting Middlesbrough, encouraging community activity, promoting healthy living and boosting the local economy. Overall the event was showcased in 117 countries and watched by 2 million people over the course of the Tour. I was pleased to see how local communities fully embraced the event in a number of guises and across all locations, whether they lined the route or not.

We are now looking at securing the Tour legacy. We will be working with Welcome to Yorkshire to promote and encourage activity in Middlesbrough such as the launching of Bike Libraries, which have been hugely successful in Yorkshire.

2. **Cultural Events**

Middlesbrough is fast establishing itself as a hub of cultural activity, and we have been proud to host a variety of cultural events, with the Tour de Yorkshire being just one.

In mid-April I was pleased to launch the second bi-annual **T-Junction International Poetry Festival** at mima. The launch was the start of a series of events across the area celebrating poetry in various forms, and featuring a whole range of local and international poets. **Crossing the Tees**, our Tees Valley wide literary festival, started on 10 June with its first event being a celebration of Shakespeare.

We were privileged to be asked to host **BBC Music Day** at the Transporter Bridge. This was a fantastic chance to capitalise on, and maintain, the international coverage the Tour de Yorkshire brought to Middlesbrough, and was a great opportunity to use this event for the launch of the new Transporter Park, which was opened by CBeebies own Mr Bloom.

Orange Pip Market was launch at the end of May to huge crowds – a feat repeated at the second one on 25 June. Orange Pip offered a festival-like atmosphere of music, entertainment and good food. It's a perfect opportunity to promote the new businesses on Bedford and Baker streets, as well as develop on Middlesbrough's already expanding cultural quarter.

The 26th annual Middlesbrough **Mela** takes place on 9 and 10 July and promises to yet again be a great event celebrating Middlesbrough's rich heritage.

3. **Preserving and celebrating our heritage**

Heritage is an important aspect of our cultural strategy, with the preservation of our historical buildings forming part of Mayor Dave Budd's 2025 Vision – *Fairer, Safer, Stronger*. Going beyond this, we are keen to safeguard our rich heritage for the future, and in a number of guises. Middlesbrough Council's new Heritage Development Officer has been working on a number of war memorial projects across the town. The Samuelson Club, which is in the process of being sold, have agreed to hand over their memorials to the Dorman Museum with the view to preserve them as part of the collection. A new war memorial, part of a Heritage Lottery Fund project, at All Saints Church, was unveiled by the Mayor, in June.

Community engagement is vital also, and after meeting with organisers, I have asked for representatives of Middlesbrough Council to meet with the group developing the Cannon Street Revisited Project, with a view to offer support in terms of fundraising and grant writing. The project aims to develop community outreach in the area and develop heritage resources. An initial community event was hosted at Dorman Museum and was well attended by the public.

The Captain Cook Museum has now reopened for the summer season with an exhibition on aboriginal artefacts. Following my approval, work has now commenced on the development of a detailed project plan for the Arts Council-funded refurbishment of the first floor of the museum. Work will start on site once the museum closes for the winter and will create new education and learning facilities, enhance the Cook collections and provide a better visitor experience. Negotiations have also started with the National Maritime Museum to secure loans of significant Cook artefacts for an exhibition to reopen the museum in 2017.

The procurement process for **Middlesbrough Town Hall** capital project continues and enabling works such as asbestos removal will commence over the summer. The venue is now closed and staff have worked to empty the building ready for handover to the main contractor. Staff have now moved onto secondments across the council for the closure period. Heritage activities are now gearing up, to engage the public with the Town Hall and the town's history during closure. Once again community engagement is a key aspect here; a call for volunteers went out and 24 have been trained in a range of heritage activities, including research and archiving at Teesside Archives, and oral history collection with Teesside University. They will be working over the coming months to explore the heritage of the Town Hall and develop interpretation materials. The Town Hall will be represented at Middlesbrough Mela and Cleveland Show in July delivering engagement activities for all ages related to the project.

4. Music Development

The Musinc project has completed its evaluation for 2015/16 and has delivered 36 music projects in youth settings during the year working with over 350 individual young people to develop music making skills, and support their social development. Many of the young people involved in Musinc face significant challenges that leave them at risk of exclusion, and groups involved in the project range from young carers to young offenders. There is currently a call out for expressions of interest for groups interested in taking part in taster projects in 2016 and 11 have been received so far.

The Accompany classical music development programme continues with the delivery of the final activities in the Ten Pieces project. As part of a national initiative supported by the BBC, students from Abingdon and Ayresome Primaries will take part in a special event at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Proms. They will perform as an orchestra

and choir with other schools from around the country. Closer to home the final Ten Pieces performance will take place at Coulby Newham church. The performance by Middlesbrough and Stockton schools will include performances of music composed by the children involved in the project, accompanied by a mini orchestra of professional and community musicians, as well as a massed choir event.

Leisure and Sport

5. Cycling

To complement the recent purchase of 20 track specific cycles for Middlesbrough Sports Village's Velodrome and the provision of up to 13 hours cycle coaching each week (funded by British Cycling and Everyone Active), the venue now has a full accreditation programme in place to allow people, irrespective of any previous cycling experience, the opportunity to gain the skills, competencies and confidence to cycle on the velodrome. It is anticipated that this will provide one of the exit routes for those inspired to take part in cycling through this year's Tour de Yorkshire's visit to Middlesbrough and the 2 months of cycling activity wrapped around the Tour de Yorkshire.

In addition to the above, October will see Middlesbrough Sports Village host its first ever cyclocross event. Cyclocross is a gruelling cross country cycle race that often sees cyclist jumping off their bikes to negotiate fences, steps and streams. It is fully anticipated that this will be a spectacle not to be missed and it is hoped that event organisers, British Cycling and Cleveland Wheelers, will consider Middlesbrough Sports Village as suitable host for an annual cyclocross event.

6. Junior Park Run

Following discussions with volunteers and Park Run, funding has been identified through Public health to deliver a Junior Park Run, for ages 4-14, at Hemlington Lake. This will take place weekly at 9am on Sundays and will be delivered by volunteers. We are committed to tackling health inequalities across our town, and a Junior Park Run is an excellent way to promote healthy, active lifestyles to young people. That is why, despite other Local Authorities across the country deciding to charge, Middlesbrough Council will continue to support a Park Runs – both for adults and juniors – as free of charge. Children can run the course with parents if they wish and are rewarded for their efforts based on the number of events they have completed. A provisional date for the first Junior Park Run is 14 August although this is yet to be confirmed. It is hoped that the Tees Pride 10K will be a great opportunity to promote the Hemlington Junior Park Run further.

7. Run Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough Council in partnership with Everyone Active successfully delivered the Ali Brownlee Riverside 5k on Sunday 5 June. This event saw 1400 runners tackle the 5k and 700 runners take on the 2k Fun Run. Now attention is firmly turned to the Taylor Wimpey Tees Pride 10k that will take place on Sunday 4th September, starting and finishing on Hall Drive. The Fun Run at this event sees SABIC return to sponsoring part of the Run Middlesbrough programme whilst Thirteen continue their long term commitment to Run Middlesbrough. This year's event will also see a greater involvement from the newly refurbished Acklam Hall. Plans with regard to Acklam Hall's involvement are currently being discussed but it is anticipated that it will bring a new dimension to the Tees Pride 10k.

8. Improving our leisure centres

The Rainbow and Neptune are continuing to undergo significant capital development work which is anticipated to be completed through August. At the **Neptune**, capital development will see the gym extended and moved and the provision of new changing facilities, dance studio and community room. Meanwhile, the **Rainbow** will see its gym extended and made visible to reception, a new fitness studio, new changing facilities and a refurbished squash court. Plans for **Middlesbrough Sports Village** include a new fitness studio extending above the ground floor strength and conditioning area and an extension to the current 1st floor gym. Plans for an outside space at Middlesbrough Sports Village are currently being considered by Everyone Active and will be submitted to the Council shortly. In addition to the above Everyone Active will also invest in the refurbishment of the Club House at the **Golf Centre** to bring it up to the standards expected of a modern day bar and catering facility.