

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 19th October 2016

Culture

1. Heritage Blue Plaques

The second phase of Tees Transporter Bridge blue plaque scheme is set to be installed in the coming weeks, including Middlesbrough Central Library, Commerce House, Custom House and Albert Park. This completes the installation of blue plaques as part of the HLF funded Transporter Bridge Heritage Project and will be accompanied by the exciting addition of a “Heritage App”, which is in the final stage of testing. Public response to the initial plaques has been extremely positive.

2. Discover Middlesbrough

The ever-popular *Discover Middlesbrough* festival will take place across the last two weeks of October with an extensive programme of cultural and heritage activities, including talks on the Bell family, opportunities to visit Middlesbrough Town Hall and participate in heritage themed activities.

The festival will launch on 14th October with an evening event, ‘Nightfall’, celebrating culture and heritage and animated the town centre after dark. This will see a range of activities and arts installations for family audiences in Centre Square, events in mima, Central Library and other town centre buildings and includes the return of popular torchlight tours of historic buildings. The full Discover Middlesbrough programme is available online at lovemiddlesbrough.com.

3. Middlesbrough Town Hall

Heritage engagement in the Town Hall project is ongoing. As part of Middlesbrough Town Meal and September Orange Pip Market, the ‘My Town Hall’ stand was open to the public who shared memories of the Town Hall and accessed information on the project. The pool of 25 Town Hall volunteers continues to undertake research and documentation activities and develop content for the Town Hall website, and building hoardings. As enabling works commence we have started to share photos on social media which has been positively received, for example the pictures of the newly exposed windows in the Crypt reached over 10,000 people.

The Town Hall continues to programme some small-scale funded performances as part of both the classical development programme and the children’s theatre consortium during closure. Performances of Theatre Hullabaloo’s *Spirits of the Sea* will take place in North Ormesby Hub and Chamber Classical performances in Central Library in October.

4. Mima

Two new exhibitions will open in October at mima, including an exhibition of Winifred Nicholson paintings and an exhibition about the impact of the medical, technological and social developments of the First World War developed by international artists Jane and Louise Wilson. Both exhibitions have been developed as part of mima’s national partnership working.

5. Museums

The latest temporary exhibition at the Dorman Museum, 'Safe and Sound', focuses on the history of the emergency services on Teesside. The exhibition features moving stories from some of our everyday heroes, alongside their medals of bravery and other objects from the collections, including a 19th Century manual fire appliance, a collection of Victorian police truncheons and an Edwardian nurse uniform. The exhibition is a result of extensive research from the Dorman and Captain Cook Birthplace Museums, the Head of Steam Darlington Railway Museum and Museum of Hartlepool, and has been funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund.

Work continues on the delivery of the Treasury funded refurbishment project at the Cook which will take place over the winter closure period. Contrary to some claims, this refurbishment covers work to the building and CCBM's contents and general offer. Procurement for various aspects of the works is underway and work is expected to start on site in early November. Discussions are underway with various national institutions to explore potential loans of exhibition materials in preparation for the reopening in the Spring.

Leisure and Sport

6. Capital Developments

The investments at the Rainbow and Neptune are now complete. Both of these developments feature new gym spaces at their heart that are open to both the public and community programming delivered by Public Health's Health Development Team. Work to extend the gym and create a mezzanine floor at Middlesbrough Sports Village is well underway and should achieve completion through October. In addition, Sport and Leisure Management/Everyone Active will shortly submit proposals for further developments at Middlesbrough Sports Village.

7. Run Middlesbrough

Sunday 4 September saw the 12th running of the Taylor Wimpey Tees Pride 10k and SABIC Fun Run. Almost 2,500 athletes took part in the 10k whilst the Fun Run attracted over 800 runners. Many of those participating raised significant funding for local charities whilst others used the event to support their personal health and fitness goals. As ever, the event attracted a number of high calibre athletes producing top class performances, this included the men's winner, Linthorpe based Matty Hynes who crossed the finish line in a time of 30:44 and women's winner Tracy Millmore who crossed the finish line in a time of 36:51.

8. Cycling

Monday 12 September saw the first meeting of the new Prissick Cycle User Group. 14 people from the local cycle community attended this meeting, seeing the formation of a group that serves the interest of the local cycling community, drives further participation at Middlesbrough Sports Village's cycle facilities and provides the opportunity to attract additional funding to the site.

Sunday 30 October will see Middlesbrough Sports Village host its first cyclo-cross event. Cyclo-cross is, in essence, cross country racing for cycling that is gruelling for

participants and a fantastic spectacle for spectators. This event will be organised by British Cycling and forms part of a wider North East Cyclo-cross league. All are encouraged to attend to see this event whilst for those that fancy participating further details can be found via British Cycling's events web page.

A track specific cycle coach will be employed for up to 13 hours per week with a view to enable further access to Middlesbrough Sports Village's velodrome. This post is part funded by British Cycling and Sport and Leisure Management/Everyone Active. Expressions of interest have been sought from appropriately qualified coaches.