

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 30th November 2016

1. Waste Policy

The Waste Policy Team, alongside the Street Champions and Middlesbrough Environment City, organised an event on Parliament Road where the Street Champions continued their good work on the planters by de-littering them and planting bulbs and plants. The Street Champions also undertook a litter pick along Parliament Road and also engaged with a number of residents explaining what they were doing and how they could get involved to keep their local area clean and tidy.

The Council has launched its Recycling Reward Scheme which is a scheme that rewards residents for recycling and recycling in the correct way. As part of the scheme officers will randomly select streets on a weekly basis and those residents that are participating, and who's recycling is free from contaminants, will be entered into a prize draw for £50 shopping vouchers. The scheme is to run for a number of months and will cover all wards across Middlesbrough.

The Waste Policy team, in partnership with Property Services have rolled out paper recycling to the Civic Centre offices, this has included paper recycling bins being located in all offices and across all floors within the Civic Centre. As the bins were delivered, Environment Education Officers were on hand to distribute information leaflets explaining the system and also to answer any questions people had. This scheme is part of the Council's commitment to One Planet Living and to reduce the amount of waste sent to disposal.

2. Walk the Wards

'Walk The Wards' has now commenced where Ward Councillors and Senior Area Care Officers can attend a biannual 'walkabout' giving Councillors the opportunity to highlight any issues they may have within their ward.

3. Area Care

All grass cutting and weed spraying works have now ceased for the winter period and will re-commence next March/April (weather permitting).

Town centre flower planters and hanging baskets were once again a huge success during the summer with many compliments received. They have now been removed for the winter period.

Partly funded by the Town Centre Investment Programme, a 'deep clean'/jet washing programme of the town centre pedestrianised areas commenced for an 8-10 week period and is scheduled for completion by the end of November, weather and resources permitting.

Area Care Staff worked closely with the Fire Brigade and PCSO Officers on Saturday 5th November assisting with removal of bonfires classed as dangerous.

Following a successful training programme Area Care operatives have carried out installation of Nottssport Safety Surfacing under one of the swing sets at Stewart Park. The second set of swings will also be resurfaced by the end of November.

A shrub removal programme has taken place along Cargo Fleet Lane/junction with Cranmore Road in preparation for the new Road Traffic Scheme.

Installation of Nott Sport safety play surface has been installed under one swing set at Stewart Park.

4. Purple for Polio

'Purple for Polio' bulb planting has taken place in Ayresome Gardens and Stewart Park to raise awareness of the Rotary Clubs countrywide campaign to eradicate polio in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society, with purple crocus bulbs being used to signify the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised. On October 14th the Rotary Club of Cleveland together with help from members of the Friends Of Stewarts Park and two local schools, Holmwood and Captain Cook, planted 5000 purple crocus corms within the grounds of Stewarts Park which it was felt, in addition to the safety of participating schoolchildren, would be the perfect backdrop for a mass crocus planting scheme ensuring a visible reminder of Rotary's commitment for many years to come.

5. Middlesbrough Bus Station – Quiet Room

Middlesbrough has been designated as a Dementia Friendly town and as a result it was identified that the provision of a Quiet Room within the town centre would assist people and carers whilst visiting the town centre.

The bus station was identified as a key location due to the high number of people using local transport and its central location within the town making it easily accessible for all. Soon visitors to the bus station will see signs directing them to the new Quiet Room which has been designed to specifically meet the needs of people with dementia as well as people with autism or vulnerable people who need to take some time out to be away from people or a busy environment.

The room is located on the main concourse within the bus station it is fully accessible and has been simply furnished and decorated in soothing colours with controllable lights designed to imitate natural lighting as far as possible - it is a space where people can just relax and be calm.

The Quiet Room is easily accessed by requesting its use at the main customer help point on the main concourse which is located in front of Stand 11. The Quiet Room will be available for use during bus station opening hours.

6. St Bede's Chapel

Work commenced on improving the appearance of St Bede's Chapel at Teesside Crematorium. Phase 1 of the works will be complete during November and includes: Replacing lighting, carpets, upholstery, curtains and blinds. Redecorating, widening the catafalque and improving the quality of the sound system. Further phases next year will include enabling wheelchair access to the w/c and improvements to heating and ventilation. Several shrub beds have been installed, replacing hedges which were past their best, and several funeral directors have let staff know that this improvement has been appreciated.

7. Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough

Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough delivered two training sessions for Bereavement Services staff and a small number of funeral directors and celebrants during October. All who attended the training found the sessions to be enlightening. Bereavement Services are now Dementia Friends and were delighted to be able to make a donation of over £4000 to the charity from its latest share of the national Metal Recycling Scheme. Publicity will shortly be arranged for this.