

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Culture

#### **1. National Recognition for Middlesbrough Town Hall**

Every four years Arts Council England invest in a select number of organisations and venues across the country that are identified as being of national significance, with the capability of bringing new energy to the arts and culture sector, and engaging new audiences. These National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) have previously been concentrated largely in the South East, with only limited awards being made in the North East (Baltic, Sage etc.). In 2015, mima became the first institution in Tees Valley to secure NPO status. Following a four year programme of joint working, and dedicated relationship building with Arts Council England, Middlesbrough Town Hall has been included for the first time within the 2018-2021 list of NPOs. Around £1 million will be provided by Arts Council England over the four years to help deliver an ambitious programme of classical music, jazz, folk and world music performances, underpinned by extensive participation opportunities. Following its £8 million refurbishment, Middlesbrough Town Hall will reopen in 2018 with a high profile programme of performances, underpinned by a vibrant and creative hub for music, performing arts and artistic development that will be accessible to all.

#### **2. NPO Status for Tees Valley Museums**

In addition to the significant funding for Middlesbrough Town Hall, NPO status has also been secured for a partnership of museums across Tees Valley, including the Dorman Museum and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum. Funding of around £350,000 per year will be made available through Arts Council England, to build capacity around collections development and management. Further work will be undertaken in summer 2017 to negotiate the details of the investment, and agree priorities across the wider area. This investment, along with the securing of NPO status for Middlesbrough Town Hall, and the retention of NPO status for mima will ensure that Arts Council England investment into Tees Valley is increased by 57% over the next four years.

#### **3. Mima**

mima was been awarded the Journal Culture Award for *North East Museum of the Year* at an awards ceremony in Hexham Abbey for the exhibition '*If All Relations Were to Reach Equilibrium, Then This Building Would Dissolve*', a project looking at migration. Alongside the news that NPO status would be retained for a further four years, audience figures continue to improve, with an 11% increase on last year, and April recording the best visitor figures in 6 years – over 8,000 through the door in a month. Average visitor dwell times are also increasing, reaching 93 mins against a target of 70 mins. The summer programme launched with the opening of Kadar Attia, Black Art of the 1980s, a show about Margaret Thatcher's visit to Teesside in 1987 made with TU history students.

#### **4. Middlesbrough Town Hall**

Capital works are ongoing with many key features now being realised, including completion of the glazed roof and the breaking out of the mezzanine floor in the Carriageway. Heritage engagement activities continue to be well-received, with the Engagement and Learning Officer developing schools engagement programmes around the themes of 'Civics Culture and Citizenship' and 'Design and Construction', public tours of the building, and ongoing collection and sharing of memories about the Town Hall. Excellent media coverage of the project has been received, particularly from the exhibition hoardings around the building – work will start on the next exhibition in July.

#### **5. Captain Cook Birthplace Museum**

The museum re-opened at the start of June following the completion of refurbishment works to the education facilities and the temporary exhibition gallery supported by a £500,000 Treasury grant. Further works were completed by the new café tenants 'Cooks Café' to refurbish the café area and kitchen. The new exhibition and café offer have been well-received by visitors, and education bookings are full now, through to the end of December.

#### **6. Dorman Museum**

The temporary exhibition 'Tokyo to Tees' exploring connections between Japan and Christopher Dresser, as well as Japanese influences on Victorian decorative arts opened at the start of June. July will see a programme of summer family activities. The museums team is also preparing submissions to Arts Council to retain Accredited Museum status, which is the national standard for museums.

#### **7. Great Place**

Following the successful partnership bid to Heritage Lottery Fund led by the combined authority, work is ongoing to secure permission to commence delivery of the Greater Tees, Great Place project. In Middlesbrough projects will be developed to create cultural workspace in the Albert Road area contributing to an emerging creative cluster, and to enable mima to develop embedded creative programmes in North Ormesby as part of the regeneration strategies for the area.

#### **8. Musical Inclusion**

After 5 successful years of delivering musical inclusion projects with young people in some of the most challenging circumstances across Tees Valley, the music project (hosted by Middlesbrough Council) has been invited to submit an expression of interest for 4 more years funding from Youth Music. A stage 1 expression of interest has been submitted for £160,000 per year between 2018 and 2022, and if successful a full application will be submitted in October this year. This will enable the development of more inclusive music provision in the area, and enable young people to be referred on to music activities through the Early Help Assessment process.

#### Events

#### **9. Orange Pip Market**

It's been an exceptionally busy time for Orange Pip Market. After announcing that the June market would be taking place on Centre Square instead of the usual Baker/Bedford streets, an unprecedented amount of press and public opinion came forward surrounding the move. The public outpouring of affection, ownership and loyalty for Orange Pip was undeniable and heartening, with the story giving Orange Pip its first ever front page in the local press. The market will however return 'home' to Baker and Bedford Street for future

markets, once a reconfigured plan is put in place to address the original issues of overcrowding by the stage area. Talks are also ongoing to potentially close Albert Road on market days to allow the public more space.



live music on the square.

The bulk of the June programme took place on the large grassed square directly in front of mima at one side and the Civic Centre at the other. The size of the space gave the curatorial team the freedom to programme many more traders and create a more active and participatory arts agenda. As this was a summer special, there were also additional live music acts; 5 bands instead of 4 and additional

### 10. Party in the Park

Party in the Park at Stewart Park went off with a bang huge fairground with entertainment throughout the day festival topped off with a fabulous firework display. The third annual Party in the Park event drew 12,000 people to the park throughout the weekend to the various different entertainment and attractions. A Geese Show, Spark the fire dance show from Britain's got Talent, BROKE BMX stunt show, Galloping Acrobatics and many more took to the main entertainment ring to wow the crowds. The show organiser Ryan Crow said "It was the best Party in the Park yet with great weather lovely people and a real family atmosphere throughout the day".



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### 11. Race for Life



Race for Life brought a sea of pink tutu's and leg warmers to Centre Square in aid of cancer research on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. 1,500 women and children joined together to walk jog and run the 5k route that took in the sites of Middlehaven before returning to Centre Square for a well-deserved Ice cream. Unlike previous years the weather was glorious and helped the river of Pink fly through the course in record timing. Harry Hardiker, Cancer Research UK's Middlesbrough event manager, said: "Life-saving research is being funded right now thanks to the women of Middlesbrough running, jogging or walking at Race for Life. Race for Life 5K isn't about being the fittest, fastest or first over the finish line, women of all ages and abilities sign up and It really is the taking part that counts." So far a massive £35,935 has been collected in sponsorship from the

Middlesbrough event.

### 12. Teesside Hospice Flower Memory Garden

Teesside Hospice Flower Memory Garden is in its last week of bloom on Centre Square, as the flowers will be plucked and sent to their new homes at the end of the month. The flowers for the annual installation are created by the same company who delivered the world famous poppy river around the Tower of London. Over £14,000 has been raised to support the running of Teesside Hospice, from sunflower sales, dedications and donations. 358 people were remembered on the memory wall and over a 100 people attended the service on the first day to celebrate the opening of the garden.



Throughout the month long installation the garden has seen thousands of visitors come along and take a moment to remember their loved ones, it's also brought hundreds of smiles to passers-by who have loved the colourful installation. The hospice are hoping that the garden will become an annual installation on Centre Square after a second year of success.

### 13. Armed Forces Day

Following the success of last year's '4 Yorks freedom parade', the Armed Forces Day celebration was held in the heart of the town centre. Wall climbing, paint balling, Boat racing, bike riding, face painting singing and dancing featured throughout the day. Feedback has been very positive from the organisations involved, with WRAC Association rep Janis Landis commenting "I think it has been one of the best AFDs we have had in Middlesbrough" and Flt Sgt Vic Rose from RAF Leeming stating "It was the best event of the year so far".



Performances from the Doowop Dollies supported by the Ceroc dancers from the Tower Ballroom, and the Trinity Centre Tea Dancers provided a spectacle for the town centre shoppers and AFD participants. The day was topped off with an Army cadet conga line singing and dancing through the streets.

### 14. Tom Dresser VC

To mark the centenary of Tom Dresser winning the Victoria Cross during the First World War in 1917, a statue was unveiled in his honour and blessed on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May by Canon John Lumley. An emotional ceremony attended by hundreds was held in the gardens of the Dorman Museum in Middlesbrough. His grandson, Brian Dresser, gave a moving speech highlighting Mr Dresser's courage, as the statue was unveiled. In the presence of Tom Dresser's son, and his other grandson, the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough David Budd gave the opening address followed by a citation from Major Roger Chapman MBE. Armed Forces standard bearers, representatives from Mr Dresser's regiment the Green Howards watched alongside his family as a commemorative stone was also laid in his honour.



as the Mayor Green

### Stronger Communities

#### 15. Reducing Reoffending

The Community Safety Officers are working with partner agencies in the third sector and Middlesbrough Retail Crime Partnership to introduce referral mechanisms that give first time female offenders of retail crime the opportunity to be referred for support on a wide range of lifestyle issues. Common lifestyle issues which influence entry into criminality include welfare issues, mental health, domestic violence and substance misuse.

The Community Safety Officers have also been working closely with Adult Mental Health Social Workers around the management of offenders with learning difficulties. This work is improving intelligence sharing and communication with offenders whom not only pose a risk of offending but can often be victims of hate crime. The Community Safety Team have provided training resources to all Neighbourhood Police and Neighbourhood Safety

Staff, and worked with Police and Social Care Teams to improve information sharing and help effectively manage and support people in the community.

### **16. Troubled Individuals Programme (Breaking the Boundaries)**

This is a new 3 year initiative targeting individuals in Middlesbrough who have complex needs but are not currently engaging with any services or meet the threshold for adult social care. Those identified will include rough sleepers or those at risk of eviction, have problems with addiction or mental health issues, at risk of financial exclusion and unemployment, offending and victimisation. The Breaking the Boundaries Practitioners will look at a person centred approach, co-ordinating support around the individual issues of that person. The Community Safety Team will have three Practitioners, two of which are now in post. They have had 6 referrals in the first month, all of whom are beggars or rough sleepers. These individuals are being supported and placed in appropriate accommodation as well as getting help signing up to a GP and receiving advice on their health and wellbeing.

### **17. Thorntree / Brambles Farm Fire Setting**

There has recently been an increase in fire setting within the wards of Thorntree and Brambles Farm with those responsible believed to be of Primary School age. 2 youths have been identified and Neighbourhood Safety Officers are working closely with partner agencies to educate people and prevent future incidents. The following actions have been undertaken:

- scanning document prepared to identify key times and locations;
- two youths referred to Fire Setters Intervention Course and parent/guardian made aware;
- multi agency walkabout carried out in the area concerned to identify risks;
- extra patrols from local Police Team at key times;
- educational classroom sessions carried out in all Primary Schools around fire setting and antisocial behaviour ;
- letters sent to parents via all Primary Schools informing them of the current issues and how they can report incidents as well as informing parents what is available should they suspect their child to be involved;
- advice given to residents in most affected areas on securing wheelie bins and rubbish; and,
- free home fire safety visits offered

### **18. Developing Central Library**

The public and stakeholder consultation for developing Central Library is currently underway, finishing at the end of June. A subsequent report will be presented to the Executive in November 2017 detailing options both in terms of the physical layout of the building and the programme of supporting activity which will be provided. Supporting an improvement in local literacy levels will form the core of the Central Library offer moving forward.

### **19. Your Town, Your Future (Digitisation Project)**

This is a £91,000 Arts Council funded programme that will see the digitisation of the photographic collection held in Central Library, improving access via a locally developed web site that will feature the images. A room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Central Library has been cleared to enable the digitisation to take place on site and the technical equipment is currently being installed. 120 local volunteers will be involved over the year and the first

recruitment phase will start in September. Volunteers will learn a range of digital skills as well as exploring what it means to them to be a resident of Middlesbrough in 2017.

### **20. Great Get Together**

The Council took part in this national initiative in memory of MP Jo Cox, aimed at bringing together communities to celebrate 'all that we have in common'. Events were held at Hubs across the Borough with over 200 residents taking part.