

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 26th July 2017

1. Area Care

Planting of all summer bedding has commenced across the town together with the installation of three tier planters within the town centre. Hanging baskets and lamppost baskets have also been installed throughout the town Centre and at various points located along Kings Road North Ormesby.

Phase two of Acklam Cemetery horticultural scheme was completed in early June with ten decorative planting towers being sited around the crematorium.



As part of the 'Main Routes' programme works to enhance all immediate main routes into the town centre are progressing involving the painting of street furniture, neatening of pin kerb edges, railings and underneath street furniture, and the recent removal of the shrub bed which was located close to the former Brambles Farm Public House.

2. Improving our Environment

Improving our environment and making our town more resilient to climate change is a key part of the Mayor's vision for a Fairer, Safer, Stronger Middlesbrough.

As part of this, Sudbury Pond in Marton is soon to be replanted with reeds to improve the water quality and help alleviate any toxins contained within the water.

Ten new standard trees have recently been planted to replace ones which had been removed as part of the road widening scheme at Cranmore Road.

In Stewart Park, a clay bund is currently being constructed around the wetland area to help prevent flooding to the surrounding paths over the winter period.

3. Waste Policy

As a One Planet Living town, we are committed to increasing recycling rates and reducing unnecessary waste. To this end, the Recycling Reward scheme has continued with eight lucky residents winning Cleveland Centre shopping vouchers over April and May. The reward scheme is open to all residents and to enter all they have to do is present their recycling on the correct day at the agreed collection points, streets and houses are then randomly selected.

Streets Champions and members of the Waste policy & Environment Enforcement team carried out a litter pick in the Essex Street area of the Newport ward – this is a continuation of the Street Champion project where residents are involved in keeping their local environment clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

A joint initiative was carried out in Hemlington and Berwick Hills and Pallister to try to tackle the issue of side waste - the excess refuse placed next to refuse bins on collection day. Area Care, Refuse and the Environment Enforcement team undertook a joint morning of action where side waste was discovered, searched and perpetrator's identified. A number of warning letters and enforcement notices were issued to residents in an effort to reduce this problem and ensure that the local environment was clean and tidy.

4. Environmental Enforcement

Pictured meeting members of the Environmental Enforcement Team. With the addition of two recently recruited new members the team is now represented by 6.5 FTE equivalent Officers. The expansion will enable an officer to be dedicated to each of our Zonal Areas, North, East, South & West, and allow two Officers to patrol and monitor high density housing areas. Body worn cameras are to be introduced to aid Officers with their duties together with new vehicle livery.



5. Recycling Reward Scheme

The Recycling Reward scheme has continued with eight lucky residents winning Cleveland Centre shopping vouchers over April and May, this brings the total number of winners to over 40 since the scheme began. The reward scheme is open to all households across Middlesbrough and all residents need to do to enter is present their

recycling on the correct day at the agreed collection points, streets and houses are then randomly selected. As part of the Reward Scheme all the winners since January were invited to a presentation event at the Town Hall where they were thanked for taking part in the scheme and were also given a tour of the Town Hall. The feedback received from the residents was very positive and the residents stated how it was a nice surprise to win the voucher and that they will definitely continue recycling and remind their neighbours about the recycling reward scheme.



6. Albert Park

Following recommendation via CEFAS in 2016 the Fishing Lake at Albert Park was closed for 6 weeks commencing 24th May 2017 to all fishing during the spawning season. Members of the public have been made aware through social media and signage around the lake. CEFAS will be making a visit to the lake on 21st June 2017 to carry out a follow up inspection due to the outbreak of KHV in 2016 and inspections will be on going for the next 4 years.

The refurbishment of the Bowls Pavilion via Social Care has now been completed and new clients to the facility have been welcomed from May 2017. The facility now operates a 5 day a week service and has doubled the client intake in this time.

The fountain is currently out of commission due to a broken pump and investigations are currently ongoing with the company who supplied the pump to rectify this issue as soon as practicably possible.

After the recent publicity about the brutal attack of the nesting Swan on the lake which resulted in the female swan “Shona” being taken to a private lake to recuperate; Shona has now returned to the lake of her own free will and appears to be happy. Relevant bodies have been notified of her return and will continue to monitor the situation.

End of term visits to the park have begun and activities participated in have included roller skating, orienteering, sports on the main field and the use of the play areas.

In connection with the Royal Museums Greenwich a travelling memories machine visited the park on 1st July 2017. A day of activities were available for all to enjoy free of charge.

A host of activities will be available throughout the park over the summer months. Details of these events can be found on the Council web page, Primary Times and social media and will include storytelling, arts and crafts, sporting, activities, trails and learn to ride.

7. Stewart Park

Party in the Park which took place on 2nd – 4th June was once again a very successful event with approximately 15,000 members of the public attending over the duration of the weekend.

Captain Cook Museum has now re-opened its doors in time for the new season following a major refurbishment over the winter period.

8. Middlesbrough House Ground Floor Refurbishment Project

On 18 May, The Mayor opened the new-look Middlesbrough House Customer Centre. Design Services contributed alongside other MBC sections to successfully deliver the new Customer Centre which is designed to speed up the time it takes our residents and customers to conduct their business, allowing them to get on with their day. The initial design was developed with various internal departments and project partners which also involved looking at neighbouring authority's delivery models and their experiences of how this was managed and received by their service users and general public. The design concepts reflected these discussions to take the scheme forward to the detailed design stage.

The layouts provide the customer with the means of accessing electronic customer services independently with staff providing assistance as required.

The ground floor of Middlesbrough House has been remodelled including the building services to create this new environment complete with energy efficient lighting systems.

The construction works were undertaken by Middlesbrough Council's Property Services division whilst the remainder of the office block was still in use by MBC staff. To minimise disruption the construction team also worked outside of normal hours. New IT equipment was installed into the completed scheme with support from IT Services.

All staff involved should be congratulated for the part they played in delivering our new modern, efficient and friendly Customer Centre.



9. 154 Borough Road – Accommodation

An empty council building has been brought back into use as a Children's Service operational building. Following capital investment to transform the building into an agile office environment, the 'Review and Development' team, the 'Youth Offending Service' and the 'Troubled Families' team, moved into the building in early May.

The investment in creating the Agile Environment has allowed for 75 staff to work out of an office with only 58 work stations changes - This is a small step , but is a move in the right direction in achieving a ratio of 7 work stations for every 10 staff across the central campus. It also represents another investment in Middlesbrough's city centre. Feedback from the teams regarding the move and the agile environment has been positive and the teams are quickly adapting to the new way of working.

The final stage is to relocate the 'Family Contact' team from Vancouver House.