

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 6th September 2017

Events & Culture

1. Town Meal - Saturday 1st July

Families feasted on an array of locally grown fruit and vegetables at Middlesbrough Town Meal. The annual event fed thousands of hungry visitors for its tenth year with a variety of fresh food in Centre Square.

Starting at midday, the centrepiece of the event was a hot meal made from home-grown food from around the area and cooked by catering students from Trinity School. This year's menu included leek and potato soup, pasta dishes and the Middlesbrough town crumble.

It's not just about great food, there was also host of family activities with entertainment including pony riding, produce competition, chef demonstrations and vintage bus rides. The Town Meal is a celebration of the growing projects that have run throughout the year, with community groups and individual families reaping the rewards of growing their own fruit and vegetables in locations across the town.

The entertainment featured the Bilsdale Silver Band along with children from the Captain Cook and Hemlington Hall school choirs.

The Fire Brigade were on show with their chip pan fire demonstration and St John Ambulance and Cleveland Police also had displays.

Mark Fishpool, from Middlesbrough Environment City, hailed it a great success. He said: "This has got to be the best year yet. We couldn't have asked for a better turnout and although today is very much about the food, it's also a festival of health and wellbeing."

The event has garnered celebrity attention, with top chef Raymond Blanc paying tribute to a truly innovative community initiative: "This is certainly a great way to involve all the community - what a great event.

2. Mela - Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July

Middlesbrough Mela weekend returned for its 27th year and what better place to host the event than the "cultural heart of Middlesbrough" Centre Square. 45,000 people flocked to the square over the two days despite a damp start to day one of the festival. The event is delivered by the Middlesbrough Council Events team who are part of the Middlesbrough Mela community group. The group support the events team to programme and plan the event.



The main stage took pride of place opposite mima delivering diverse acts and kids' favourites. Big names on the varied bill included Cbeebies star Dr Ranj, The Only Way Is Essex's Jasmin Walia and popular singer Zack Knight, along with headline acts HunterZ and Britain's Got Talent star Signature - back by popular demand. Hosts for the weekend were Remel London and BBC Asian Network's Kan D Man.

Market stalls, rides and food sellers were scattered around the site, workshops were also held, giving families a chance to practise willow weaving, spray painting and craft making. The Indian tea room distributed Pink tea and Masala tea to thirsty participants in the family zone and Chris Bostock entertained hundreds with his stories of adventure from around the world.

This year's development stages saw groups from Apna services, Thorntree Primary school Newport settlement and Caldicots primary school get involved in the production of site decorations and installations. The legacy of Middlesbrough mela will continue to grow in the grounds of Caldicots and Thorntree school as the live willow structures have now been returned to the schools where they were created and 'dug in' to create a piece of living art for generations of children to enjoy.

Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger has attended the Mela for more than 20 years. He said: "This year's line-up was phenomenal, the mela again proves to be a fantastic way for diverse cultures to be recognised and celebrated". The PCC and Unison Northern were once again the Gold sponsors with Asda, First Choice and Ashalls Projects also making a smaller financial contribution to the event.

3. Cleveland Show - Saturday 23rd July

It's probably the only Teesside event where you can watch a motorbike stunt gang moments after parading a cow. The Cleveland Show is Teesside's top agricultural event delivering just that bringing the sights - and smells - of the countryside to the beautiful Stewart Park.

Families lapped up the daredevil bikers and bird of prey displays, while a few yards away, farmers decked out in their finest tweed and Barbour jackets proudly paraded their cattle.

Val Thomson has been Cleveland Show Secretary for almost a decade, but attended her first event in 1955 as a ten-month-old tot. Her dad brought the show to Middlesbrough from Stockton in 1963, and she recalls picking up prizes for the family's Jersey cows. Over the last half a century, she admits the event has had to evolve from just bovine and rosettes. "People don't come to these shows like they used to," said Val. "We have had to diversify."

So while you can still see ferret racing and all the old favourites the Show has been forced to turn to less traditional events to entice punters. This year it was Jamie Squibb, who wowed the crowds with his fleet of bikes and quads. It couldn't be any more removed from the Cleveland Show of yesteryear. But while it's the new stuff that may bring in the crowds, the traditional side of the event is just as important in 2017 as it was in 1955 - if not more so.

4. Nagar Kirtan- Sunday 24th July

Hundreds filled the streets for the annual Sikh Nagar Kirtan parade. The festival, celebrated by Sikhs worldwide, marked the 361st anniversary of the birth of the eighth Guru of Sikh faith, Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji.

People lined the streets to watch as the celebration parade made its way from the Sikh Temple in Lorne Street, where prayers were read, before setting off to the sound of drummers and the singing of hymns. Leading the parade were groups of Sewadar - men and women who sprayed the road with water followed by groups with sweeping brushes ahead of a float carrying priests and the Sikh Holy Scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs consider the Guru Granth Sahib to be a living guru and so the road is swept clean ahead of it, as would be practice for a king.

Ahead of the float, five men representing the Panj Pyare - the Five Beloved - walked barefoot and carrying swords.

There were also displays of martial arts, the singing of holy hymns and prayer while more Sewadar volunteers handed and free food and drinks to those watching from the road side. The procession made its way along Derwent Street, Union Street, Borough Road, and Albert Road before finally arriving at Centre Square where speeches were made and a community meal was served.

The parade through Middlesbrough's streets was attended by Sikhs from all across the North-east and welcomed people of all faiths. The event is organised by the Sikh Temples serving secretary Jasbir Singh with assistance and guidance from The Events team and Democratic services team.

5. Orange Pip Market

Despite the success of June's Summer Special (over 9,000 visitors!), Orange Pip Market returned home to its original streets in July and the reconfigured plan - moving the stage to Albert Road - successfully addressed the previous problems with overcrowding. August's market will revise the plan and Albert Road will remain closed to traffic and be used as a third street. It is incredibly positive that in just 18 months, the market has been so popular with the public that it has had to triple in size to accommodate visitors. We feel that the stage based on Albert Road is the best configuration yet and are hoping to stay put for the future.



June, Centre Square



July, Albert Road

Stronger Communities

6. Homelessness - Key Step Scheme

The Key-Step Scheme offers a homelessness prevention service for people aged 18 to 34 across the Tees Valley who are at risk of homelessness. Key-Step has been operational since April 2017 and provides holistic support for people who may be

homeless or face the threat of homelessness, thanks to funding from the DCLG homelessness prevention programme. Middlesbrough Council are the lead authority working in partnership with Thirteen, who manage referrals from Middlesbrough, Stockton, Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland and Darlington Councils to deliver a more targeted approach. The team identifies people at risk of homelessness as early as possible and improves their lives by offering advice, support and opportunities from finding them a job or a home, to building resilience and independence. Key-Step has received 216 referrals to date, 87 of which have been from the Middlesbrough area and these include referrals for shared accommodation, supported accommodation and self-contained flats that are available. The programme has 30 fully furnished units of shared accommodation across the Tees Valley, 11 of which are within Middlesbrough, and 7 individuals have been successfully moved into this accommodation following attendance on a 5 day tenancy facilitation course. 21 individuals are working with the employability officer attached to the Key-Step team and 2 people have been successfully moved into employment.

7. My Place

My Place hosted the hugely successful Head Start 'Feel Good Festival' in July. Young people's performances included monologues describing the myths and fears surrounding transition into secondary school, accompanied by musical instruments and singing. Children and young people attended from Trinity Catholic School, Acklam Grange, St Thomas More and Priory woods. Over a hundred people attended including parents, carers and siblings all enjoying the event together.



Breckon Hill Primary had a great evening celebrating at My Place for their leaving prom, a red carpet and alcohol free cocktails were served up to over sixty children who danced the night away, ending in the crowning of a prom King & Queen.

On Saturday 1st July My Place apprentices supported The Middlesbrough Town Meal by catering for Middlesbrough Environment City staff lunches, offering a varied healthy & vegetarian menu.

8. Reducing Reoffending

The Community Safety Officer (CSO) has led on a large scale week of action focusing on enforcement and support to reduce retail crime and associated anti-social behaviour in Middlesbrough town centre. This week long focus has been the result of a 6 month focus on diverting females using support and desistance models out of the criminal justice system by addressing their complex and chaotic offending behaviour and the underlying

causes influencing such behaviours including domestic violence, mental health, poverty and substance misuse. To do this the CSO has encouraged third sector support agencies to work closely with the Middlesbrough Retail crime partnership as well as statutory professionals including police, Prisons and Probation to look at offenders holistically with positive results.

During the week of action supportive agencies and police ran stalls in the major shopping centres, voluntary sectors such as DISC engaged with over 160 clients during that week Probation worked with priority offenders and a number of unannounced home visits were also completed.

9. Town Centre Team

A multi-agency Town Centre Team is being created and will be operational from September 2017. It will ensure the Town Centre has the look and feel that we want it to have, focusing on tackling prolific and priority issues relating to victim, offender/service user or location and their 1st priority will be to tackle the issues associated with begging.

The team will consist of 1x Police Officer, 3x PCSO's, 1x LA Manager, 1x Neighbourhood Safety Officer, 1x Breaking the Boundaries Practitioner, 1x Warden and 1x Environmental Enforcement Officer. Discussions are underway and it looks likely that the team will be based in a Teesside University building in the heart of the town centre. This team will work closely with a number of partners including the Community Safety Team, Adult and Children's Services, Mental Health teams, Substance Misuse providers, Public Health, Homelessness Forum, Regional Refugee Forum, Trading Standards, Probation, Local Businesses, Teesside University, MVDA, Housing Providers and many others.

A communications plan is being developed and this will include a poster campaign utilising a local ex-beggar who has turned their life around. This person (or people) will be the face of the campaign and we will share their story to encourage people to give money to a local charity/organisation that help homeless people in Middlesbrough to turn their life around.

10. North Ormesby

North Ormesby Day of Action 24th July 2017 was very successful. Partners delivered a range of activities and interventions to the residents of North Ormesby. The day saw partners rescue a lost dog and return it to its owner, peddle bikes where security marked and crime prevention advice was given, the PDSA delivered dog MOT's and cats and dogs where micro chipped on the day. A number of tenancy warnings were issued and a referral was made to social services.

11. Antisocial Behaviour and Crime - Thorndyke Avenue

The Thorndyke Ave area of Grove Hill was raised as a concern at Joint Action Group (JAG) by Thirteen Group as they had more than six residents wanting to be moved out of the area.

We began a 'Hearts and Minds Campaign' where Thirteen Group, Police, MBC and Fire Brigade worked closely with residents in the area to establish relationships, build trust and gather information about what was going on. Residents were initially very reluctant to give information as they felt intimidated and threatened by those causing the problems. We returned to the area on a weekly basis, door knocking and delivering letters to let residents know that we were aware that they were experiencing problems, how to report (anonymously if preferred) and explained what services could do. Police and Street

Wardens conducted regular high visibility patrols and a Mini Belfast CCTV pole was purchased to help reassure residents and help identify perpetrators and suspects.

In response to the concerns raised by residents there has been a range of enforcement action taken including injunctions against key individuals, tenancy warnings and court fines. As a result there has been a significant improvement to the atmosphere in Thorndyke Ave and surrounding area; it appears calm and relaxed and residents have expressed their gratitude and said that things had improved massively.

12. Motorbike Strategy

Complaints relating to motorbike nuisance are reported throughout Middlesbrough and the Council is working with Cleveland Police and other partner agencies to develop a motorbike strategy. This new strategy aims to offer guidance to partner agencies and promote best practice that will lead to a more coordinated and measured response across the Borough.

The strategy will be used as a helpful guide for multi-agency groups and it will include information on enforcement, education, diversionary activities and environmental changes, acknowledging the need to provide a combination of interventions to achieve a reduction in the number of incidents.

The strategy will be presented to the OPCC and neighbouring local authorities at end of August 2017 to establish support and hopefully develop the strategy Cleveland wide, enabling further resources to be utilised.

13. Community Hubs

North Ormesby Community Hub

The resident led Family Support & Wellbeing Group has completed a 10 week Parenting Course delivered by Middlesbrough Community Learning. This is a fantastic achievement considering not many of the mums have ever attended any courses since leaving school. The Craft group at North Ormesby have been asked by the NHS Trust to complete a mosaic showing the logo for the Head and Neck Cancer Campaign. This is now complete and will be officially unveiled as part of the local campaign to raise awareness.

North Ormesby Hub in partnership with Active Sports Middlesbrough have distributed more than 300 free adult and child swimming vouchers to families in less than 2 weeks.

Grove Hill Community Hub

Lunch Box and activity sessions – in partnership with Public Health and Middlesbrough Together provide a healthy meal and activity for all the family. The first session was held on Tuesday 1st August. MFC provided a fun activity session whilst the parents helped prepare a healthy meal for lunch.

Friends of Grove Hill Hub Family Fun day took place on Wednesday 9th August and was filled with lots of fun things for the family as well as having partner agencies and organisations on hand to offer advice, support and information on projects that are available throughout the town.

A Hair and Beauty taster session in partnership with MCL was attended at Grove Hill Hub by ten local residents giving them an insight into the world of beauty. Students gained

basic skills in hair, nails and beauty with the chance to go on to gain a full qualification in their chosen field.

14. Central Library

Central Library - The extensive public and stakeholder consultation on the future of Central Library was concluded in July and a report is being prepared which will provide details of the results and some proposals for how the building might look and operate in the future.

Central Library hosted the first of a series of Chess Clubs running each Saturday 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Free and open to all ages, the first session boasted 16 players and 8 parents developing their chess skills. The turnout was a mix of older and younger people coming together for their shared enjoyment of the tactical game.

The My Town My Future Arts Council funded programme is recruiting local residents to tell us their stories through photographs and story-telling.

The other element of the project is to digitise the extensive Central Library collection of local photographs and upload these to a publically accessible My Town My Future website. The first wave of participants will start in September and activity will be based out in communities and in Central Library.

15. Staff Awards

The first award was the Memory Lane Café Team, for the Customer Excellence Award. The project captured the stories and memories of people living with dementia and their carers who attend the Memory Lane cafes at Central Library, Acklam and North Ormesby Hubs, culminating in the creation of a legacy publication 'Stories from the Memory Lane Café'.



The Volunteer Teams at Marton and Hemlington Community Hub and Pam Heal from Thorntree Community Hub also received a Special Volunteering award. The volunteers work alongside staff providing a friendly, quality service to the local community. Most offer at least a few hours a week and collectively they make a massive difference to the lives of those people attending the facilities.

