

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### 1. Area Care

The standard of our grass cutting is important to how our town looks. Five new Ransome Parkway Meteor Triples cylinder grass cutters have been purchased to replace the old Kubota rotary ride of grass cutters. The new machines are able to cut larger areas and also produce a more refined cut than the rotary cutters. This will help raise standards across the town.

The painting of the bollards and street furniture on the main routes into the town has progressed with the completion of Wilson Street, Exchange Square, and Queens Square. The flower troughs located in Exchange Square have been planted with dwarf conifers and alpine plants.

Prior to the start of the new football season, a deep cleanse has been carried out along the route to the Riverside Stadium which involved mechanical sweeping of the area, litter picking, removal of debris from underneath and around barriers and weed spraying.

### 2. Recycling & Waste Services

The Green Recycling Collections service has proved popular once again with tonnages in the first three months showing comparable tonnages to last year which was the highest we have seen since the service started. The collections have been extended this year with the last collections being on w/c 27th November 2017.

### 3. Albert Park

The lake has now re-opened to public fishing after the recent visit from Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) following the outbreak of Koi Herpesvirus (KHV) in 2016. CEFAS are happy for the lake to remain open to the public and a further unannounced visit will take place later in the year.

The Albert Park Visitors Centre has recently received an external defibrillator site safe donated from the ambulance service. A launch will take place in September with the aim of educating the public to the benefits of the machine.

### 4. Stewart Park

July saw the return of the annual Cleveland Show in Stewart Park and it was hailed a success by event show organisers and all who attended. The Askham Bryan College re-development of the Central Lodge remains on target to welcome students in September. Over 20 hard hat tours have been hosted, giving members of the public the opportunity to see the Central Lodge stripped down to its shell and the craftsmanship that is being used to both preserve its heritage and the modern additions making it fit for the next 100 years.

## 5. New Baby Memorial Garden at Acklam Cemetery

Council officers are currently working with the stillbirth and neonatal death charity “Teesside Sands”, to create a new Baby Memorial Garden in Acklam Cemetery. The groundwork has now been completed and discussions are taking place with ‘Sands’ representatives to select an appropriate memorial and seating for the new Garden.



## 6. Teesside Crematorium Open Day

An Open Day will be held at the Crematorium on Sunday 10th September from 10.30am – 1pm. Several Funeral Directors and the operator of the tea rooms and florist located at Acklam Cemetery will support the event. Tours of the Chapels and Crematorium will be organised and visitors will have the opportunity to ask questions of Crematorium staff and funeral directors.

## 7. Crematorium Fund Raising

Each year, the Crematorium raises money to be donated to a charity. The charity chosen this year is Alzheimer’s Research UK. On 5th July, Councillor Tracey Harvey Presented a cheque for £5,000 to Claire Priestwood, Regional Fundraising Officer from Alzheimer’s Research UK.



## 8. Apprentice Success Story

Ryan Pepper and Paul Matthews, Electrical Apprentices started their apprenticeships with Middlesbrough Council in August 2015 through their training provider TTE. During their time at Middlesbrough Council they have mainly worked on projects which included the recent Middlesbrough House Refurbishment Project and St Bede Crematorium Project.

Both apprentices have gained some excellent experience with Middlesbrough Council working on various different properties doing Projects and Electrical Maintenance. They have just successfully completed their apprenticeships this month (August 2017). Following this they successfully went through the recruitment process with Middlesbrough Council and will be employed as electricians with Middlesbrough Council as of September 2017.



## 9. Middlesbrough Theatre - Refurbishment Project

Middlesbrough Theatre is being refurbished. The project briefly comprises of a small extension to the front elevation to enlarge the existing Box Office, encompassing a new Manager's area and a new inclusive entrance with installation of new automatic doors and treatment to the external appearance at ground floor level. In addition to the extension the internal layout will be improved to enlarge the entrance lobby with a general refurbishment of the entrance foyer and the existing toilets undertaken installing new finishes and services with a slight increase in capacity in the female facilities.

New energy efficient lighting will be installed to the refurbished areas and new illuminated external signage display systems installed. The scheme is being undertaken fully by Middlesbrough Council "in house services" from design to completion with the works being facilitated through Property Services.

The programme is extremely tight with works being undertaken whilst the theatre is closed for a short period prior to shows scheduled for early September 2017. It is hoped that the majority of the works are complete early September. The scheme also includes the provision of a new boiler room facility being relocated to ground floor level to assist with previous flooding issues to the existing room located within a basement area.