

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

### 1. Area Care

The painting of the bollards, sign posts and furniture is near completion in France Street car park along with the removal of shrubs and trees which will be replaced with new varieties of trees within the car park perimeter to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment.

Painting works are also being carried out to the bollards, sign posts, knee rails and furniture within the city centre and Centre Square Boulevard and planting of spring bedding is ongoing throughout Middlesbrough's citycentre.

These works represent further investment Middlesbrough Council is making to upgrade and improve our city centre.

Works to thin the trees and remove the understorey on Newport Roundabout are currently in progress to enhance the aesthetics of the roundabout as well as improving the visibility for vehicle users.

Rose bed improvement and redevelopment outside Acklam Library is now complete within October. Investigations are ongoing into the 'wet area' that has developed in the Avenue of Trees in Acklam as this has been deteriorating each year.

Area Care are planting the redundant horticultural bed on Trimdon Avenue. The Community Council have asked that shrubs and plants that are wildlife friendly and drought tolerant are used with works being planned to take place during October. Ground re-instatement works have also now been completed at the new Trimdon Avenue play area.

A 'Scoop The Poop' initiative carried out in collaboration with The Dogs Trust was recently carried out at Hemlington Recreation Centre which involved signage showing designated dog walking routes around Hemlington Lake, and stickers being placed on bins around the area highlighting that they can be used for both litter and dog waste to encourage dog walkers to dispose of their dogs waste in a responsible manner.

Traffic management was carried out on the following rural roads from Monday 9th October – Friday 13th October, each location had traffic management for one day only as work is carried out to hedges, verges and road gullies. All works were carried out during off peak traffic times 9:30am – 3:30pm at the following locations;

- B1380 – Sporting lodge to Authority boundary
- B1365 – Stainton way Gables Roundabout to Brass Castle Road junction
- Brass Castle land from B1365 to Fulford Road
- A174 – Nunthorpe roundabout to Authority boundary
- A1043 – Nunthorpe roundabout to authority boundary

## **2. Waste Policy**

The recycling reward scheme continues with a number of residents being successful and winning the £50 shopping voucher for the Cleveland Centre. Residents are reminded if they want to have a chance of winning they just need to present their recycling as normal and ensure it contains all the correct items.

The Street Champion programme is continuing with meetings taking place plus there have been a number of litter picking/alley cleansing events

Residents are reminded that the garden waste service continues until the end of November – the last collection is on Friday 24th November. We would like to thank residents for participating in the scheme and contributing to Middlesbrough diverting waste away from disposal and increasing the amount of waste recycled and composted.

## **3. Waste Services**

The Recycling & Waste Services Back Alley Cleansing Team are working in conjunction with the Environmental Enforcement Team and other departments and agencies to address the increasing amount of fly tipping and illegal dumping in the back alleys around the town with a particular increase in the amount of furniture and white goods also being noted.

A project has been carried out in Amber Street alley following concerns regarding the amount of vermin and anti-social behaviour in the area. All businesses have received a duty of care visit by Enforcement to ensure that they have appropriate waste disposal arrangements in place. The alley has also received a deep cleanse to improve the environment and outlook of Middlesbrough in general.

## **4. Enforcement**

The Enforcement Team have issued the following Fixed Penalty Notices in the last 6 weeks;

Trade Waste	x 1
Flytipping	x 3
Dog Fouling	x 2
Abandoned Vehicles	x 1
Flyposting	x 1

There are currently 3 possible prosecutions pending

Flytipping	x 2
Microchipping	x 1

## **5. CAWF Award**

Following on from last year's Bronze achievement award Middlesbrough Council are delighted to have achieved the Silver Stray Dog Footprint for 2017 in the RSPCA's Community Animal Welfare Footprint awards (CAWF).

CAWF is run by the RSPCA to recognise organisations that go above and beyond basic requirements to ensure higher welfare standards for animals in the services they provide.

The RSPCA work closely with local authorities, the police, local resilience forums and housing associations to help them to deliver animal welfare services. This year they received a large number of entries that were at a higher standard than ever.

## **6. Albert Park**

The annual Battle of Britain Parade has taken place at the Cenotaph followed by refreshments at the recently refurbished Pavilion. A new fibre optic duct has also been installed through the park and links with the Pavilion to allow for internet access in the building.

In September a portable DEFIB machine was fitted to the Visitors Centre and registered with the North East Air Ambulance.

The PDSA attended the park to carry out free annual health care checks for local resident's pets.

## **7. Stewart Park**

September has seen the completion of the Askham Bryan College works to the Central Lodge. The college is now open with the official launch day planned for November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017.

## **8. Dementia Awareness – Middlesbrough Bus Station**

The Access officer 'Justine Sharman' was approached by Brian Rowcroft from Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough – Business Engagement Lead to help promote changing places facility to the dementia community and carers as it became clear the families and carers were not aware of this facility. It was only by chance that they came across the facility in the Bus Station.

Justine now regularly attend the Middlesbrough Dementia conferences held at Jurys Inn. Information, application forms and help is provided around the use of the changing places, both in the Bus station and My Place.

<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/social-care-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing/living-disability/changing-places-toilet-campaign>

Justine has worked very closely with the Library manager to set up Dementia Friendly café sessions in local libraries which has been positive with the community.



Justine organised for Brian Rowcroft to provide dementia friendly guidance and training to officers within Asset Management and Design Services in order that future building projects are developed with the principles in mind.

Design Services and Justine Sharman are currently looking at incorporating some of the recommendations into the finishes at the forthcoming refurbishment project at Marton Library to achieve 'Dementia Friendly Status'.

### **9. Middlesbrough Theatre - Refurbishment - Project Completion**

Design Services, Design Services have provided a full detailed design package including electrical and mechanical information for the extension and front of house remodelling at Middlesbrough Theatre.

Works are nearing completion, they have been carried out by Property Services, and the Theatre has re-opened for business. The scheme is almost complete with the exception of the new boiler room facility being relocated to ground floor level which will be concluded in the next few weeks. The work on the theatre sits alongside the work on the Town Hall restoration as investment by Middlesbrough Council's to strengthen Middlesbrough's growing cultural economy.



### **10. Teesside Crematorium Open Day on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Our first Open Day for several years provided an opportunity for local people to speak to staff and to view the Crematorium in an informal environment.

Experienced Cemetery and Crematorium staff conducted guided tours for an estimated 45 people during the Open Day, and four firms of Funeral Directors supported the day by demonstrating several different aspects of their services, including:

- a range of coffin types, including; environmentally friendly, low cost, traditional and exotic
- funeral planning, to help families plan for and manage the cost of arranging funerals
- a range of hearses and limousines, including a horse drawn hearse that has featured in television dramas, and which is often used for funerals here in Middlesbrough.

The principle purpose of the day however was to enable the curious and the concerned to ask all the questions they needed to ask and to debunk various myths surrounding cremation.

Feedback from those who visited on the day was that the event was excellent, interesting and informative.

On the day, the Evening Gazette sent along a video reporter and as a result several experienced and recently qualified staff featured in the reporting. They all represented the council with a high degree of professionalism, and the publicity that has since followed has significantly increased the value of the event.