

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

### Events & Culture

#### 1. Orange Pip Market

August and September's markets were roaring successes as over 18,000 people flocked to say goodbye to the summer. Traders' reported record takings with some selling out of produce within 2 hours of opening.

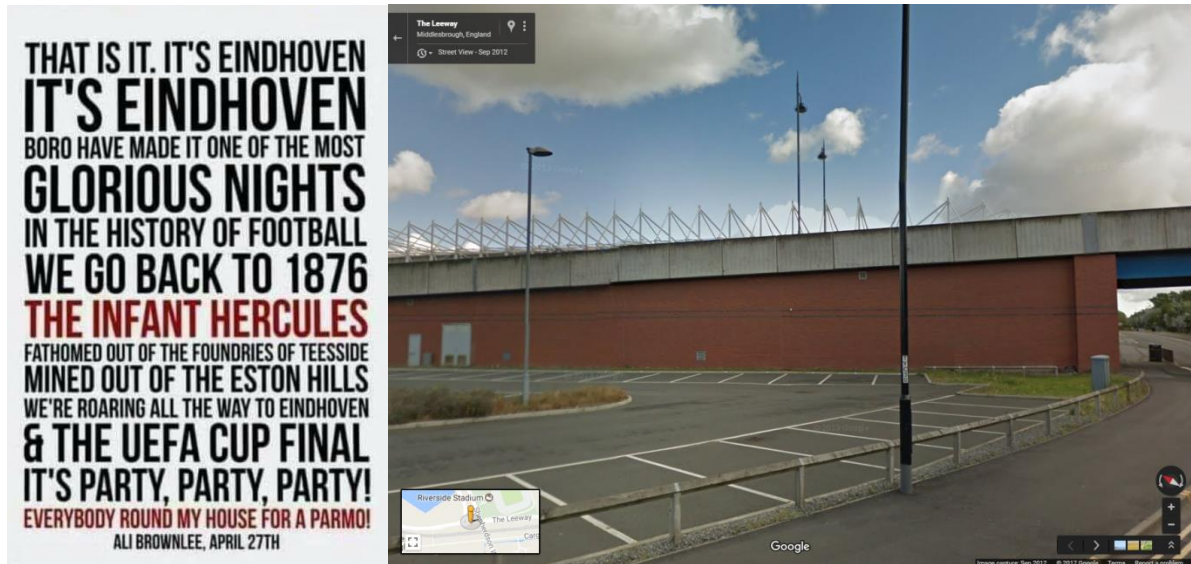
Visitors and businesses alike agree that the new site of the stage on Albert Road is turning out to be a huge success, allowing more space for socialising outside the Baker Street bars (a former pinch-point for overcrowding) and greater crowd movement around the stage. The number of visitors with reduced mobility such as wheelchairs and parents with children's buggies in attendance at the market was a testament to the improved layout. There was also a strong presence by football fans visiting the home match in August and it was encouraging to note that all visitors were polite, considerate and integrated with the market crowd very well. September saw a little rain but it didn't dampen the spirits of the visitors.

The market now feels settled into its new configuration and hopefully, it will remain there for the future.



## 2. Public Poetry

Following the success of the first three pieces of Public Poetry; Arthur Conan Doyle on Baker Street, Miranda July on Bedford Street and Simon Armitage on King Edward's Square; the next piece of the project will be a transcript from the 'Voice of the Boro', Ali Brownlee. The now legendary final-whistle speech delivered by the late BBC Tees commentator will be immortalised as art work on the bridge at Shepherdson Way. Work on the piece, which is co-funded by Middlesbrough Football Club began on 9 October and we are excited to see the finished artwork.



## 3. The Little Free Library Project -- Middlesbrough Edition

Middlesbrough Council (MBC) is offering three commissions to pair established artists with emerging artists from North East UK. The project will be curated by Nicky Peacock and the project is funded by MBC in conjunction with the Arts Council of England. One of these places will be offered to students at Cleveland College of Art & Design.

Continuing the council's commitment to art and literature in the public realm, the paired artists will collaborate on the design and delivery of a pop-up library such as the examples shown:







The libraries will be placed in sites where public engagement with arts and literature are below average and will be stocked with books supplied by Middlesbrough Library Service.

Both artists will collaborate on the design, build and decoration of the libraries and chosen artists will be paired by the curator.

Local artists will be responsible for placing and securing the library at a site chosen by the curator in consultation with Middlesbrough Library Service. There are no rules as to the design of the libraries but they should of course keep the books safe from inclement weather if it is an outdoor site.

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/build/>

The pieces will be included in the international 'Little Free Library' project to obtain official status for the libraries and this will qualify the pieces to be listed on their world map. There are currently no libraries in the scheme on Teesside. MBC will pay the registration fees associated with joining the Little Free Library.

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/registration-process/>

A mix of adult and children's books will be provided by Middlesbrough Central Library for the project. We will operate a choose one and return another at a later date and if/when the library is found empty; they will be replenished from withdrawn stock and multiples.

Aims of the project:

- Commission new and original works;
- Create opportunities for artists to collaborate and share best practice;
- Extend the reach of creativity and culture to hard-to-reach, non-gallery going audiences;
- Create mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for local emerging artists and graduates;
- Shape the social and economic identity of the town and enhance community life through placemaking;
- Support mima, Middlesbrough Town Hall and Teesside University in their cultural agenda.

Work on this project is underway and is intended for completion by February.

#### **4. Telekinesis festival**

An initial booking has been made for a music festival designed specifically for people with disabilities. Enabling people with both physically and mental disabilities the chance to attend live music events which specifically care to the correct needs and requirements that will allow for a quality experience in a safe and secure environment.

The festival has been booked for the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to be located in Centre Square. The festival organisers and agencies involved are currently fundraising for the event and seeking sponsorship.

#### **5. Christmas Market and Reindeer Parade**

Working with partner organisations, the Christmas Market is scheduled to arrive in Middlesbrough on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 which is the same date as the Christmas Light Switch On. The markets will feature 25 cabins, vintage themed fairground rides and stalls, Magical Christmas grotto and street entertainment.

The team are currently working to develop the wider Christmas events programme, which includes the Reindeer Parade that will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 13:00.

An Arts Council bid has been written which focuses on artistic development of carnival arts within Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley. Middlesbrough Reindeer Parade has provided the perfect platform for local artists to showcase the work created through the arts council bid. A partnership has been formed with Cleveland College of Art and Design, in which an artistic development week has been created to allow local students and emerging artists the opportunity to shadow artists and aid in the creation of professional carnival structures.

£1000 of funding was granted to us from Persimmon Community Trust to allow additional community groups to take part in this year's Reindeer parade.

#### **6. Events Planning**

A three year strategic plan is in progress, setting out the overall vision for the team and the events programme that achieves:

- An events programme that reflects Middlesbrough's city-scale ambitions and realises the strategic importance of Major events and entertainment when looking to attract outside investment to the area.
- An adopted process that creates the right conditions to attract a greater number of high profile events and enriches communities by igniting creative ideas and stimulating knowledge
- Commercial organisations, Artists, Community organisations, cultural and heritage organisations are supported to create and promote events that positively shape the way that Middlesbrough is viewed from within and beyond the region.
- A program that can be used as a platform for transformation to enhance the Town's brand and promote Middlesbrough as a destination.

## Communities

### **7. Homelessness**

Housing First - The establishment of the Town Centre task force team has provided us with an opportunity to identify areas of improvement in homelessness service provision for those with multiple or complex needs. Middlesbrough Council will explore the potential to work in partnership with a housing provider to deliver a Housing First pilot, to address some of these difficult to place individual and take pressure of other service areas such Social Care, Public Health, the Police and the NHS.

Housing First is an evidence based approach to successfully supporting homeless people with high needs and histories of entrenched or repeat homelessness to live in their own homes.

The overall philosophy of Housing First is to provide a stable, independent home and intensive personalised support and case management to homeless people with multiple and complex needs. Housing is seen as a human right by Housing First services. There are no conditions around 'housing readiness' before providing someone with a home; rather, secure housing is viewed as a stable platform from which other issues can be addressed. Housing First is a different model because it provides housing 'first', as a matter of right, rather than 'last' or as a reward. It makes no conditions and provides an immediate housing solution with 'wrap around' support to an individual to help them maintain it.

### **8. Reducing Reoffending**

The Community Safety Officer 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.

### **9. Breaking the Boundaries**

The Breaking the Boundaries programme has 8 current cases and has received referrals for a further 12 individuals. To date 3 who were rough sleeping have been placed into accommodation and are being supported to access benefits and other services. One other client has been supported to return to his home town.

Work is ongoing to build contacts within the community and meet with local services.

### **10. ASB/ Crime in Thorndyke Avenue**

The Thorndyke Ave area of Grove Hill was raised as a concern at JAG by Thirteen Group as they had more than six residents wanting urgent moves out of the area as they felt they could not keep their families safe. From JAG we developed a 'task force' to further investigate the issue.

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.

The problems we identified were drug dealing, fire setting, fly tipping, intimidation, threatening behaviour, assaults and criminal damage. In response Thirteen have secured two injunctions against key individuals involved in the crime and ASB, four tenancy warnings have been issued against tenants allowing known perpetrators to visit their properties, several court fines have been issued to individuals causing nuisance and ongoing investigations are continuing.

At our latest 'Hearts and Minds' Campaign 10th August 2017, we noticed a significant improvement to the atmosphere in Thorndyke Ave and surrounding area; it appeared calm and relaxed and residents expressed their gratitude and said that things had improved massively. We are aware that we need to continue to work intensively in the area and our next steps are the development of a natural play area involving local families and schools. We will also be coordinating some celebration events working closely with residents who have expressed that they would like a street party to celebrate the success in the area.

A celebration day was held in Thorndyke Avenue on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to celebrate the success for the work that has been ongoing in the area for the past few months. Residents were out in force, participating in face painting, smoothie making and football competitions.

## **11. Motorbike Strategy**

Complaints of young people riding off road motorbikes in an unsafe and often illegal manner is a widely reported problem throughout Middlesbrough. It can increase the fear of crime and adversely impact upon the quality of life for residents; it is also a factor that could increase the number of people killed and injured on our roads. Due to this ongoing problem Cleveland Police and Middlesbrough Council are working in collaboration with other partner agencies to establish best practice in dealing with motor bike nuisance.

This new strategy aims to offer guidance to partner agencies in the fight to reduce the illegal use of motorbikes in Middlesbrough. It promotes best practice and leads to a coordinated and measured response through partnership working, which will reduce the illegal, anti-social and unsafe use of motorbikes within the Middlesbrough area.

The strategy will be used as a helpful guide for multi-agency groups such as Joint Action Groups (JAGs) and individual agencies to assist with reaching short, medium and long term sustainable solutions. 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.<sup>7</sup>

Key elements of the strategy are:

- Robust use of existing legislation incl. Sect 59 Police Reform Act 2002, Road Traffic Act 1988, Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and Housing Act 1988
- Develop and maintain robust information sharing processes between the Police, their partner agencies and residents utilising the Multi-Agency Joint Action Groups as a forum to manage this process
- Access funding to enable the development and delivery of projects to reduce the amount of illegal motorbikes being used in Middlesbrough such as Fire Brigade's Learn and Live programme

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.

## **12. Community Hubs**

### Central Library

Through the Partnership with the British Library Middlesbrough Central Library will be hosting a Harry Potter Exhibition for three months from October 2017. Alongside this we have a full programme of workshops, talks and events for children and adults, some of which involve a series of live screenings from the British Library linked to the Harry Potter exhibition such as The Hogwarts Curriculum Lectures: History of Magic with Irving Finkel



The Summer Reading Challenge presentation awards were held at Middlesbrough Central Library at the end of August, welcoming 250 children aged 4-11 who were awarded medals for completing six library books over the summer period. Linked to this was a project to identify the Top 10 children's reads for the town, which has utilised interactive voting methods and social media to encourage high levels of involvement. Both initiatives come to a close in mid-September and a more detailed report will be provided in the next briefing.

### Thorntree Hub

Thorntree Hub hosted an event to promote the installation of the newly fitted PAD (Public Access Defibrillator) along with the ambulance service who were on hand to give demonstrations and advice on how they are to be used. Over 15 partner agencies attended to promote their services such as health service, employment and apprenticeship organisations, the local Kinship charity, health and wellbeing advice services, Cleveland Police and Thirteen Group.

It's been a fantastic 4 weeks of family fun at Thorntree Hub with the Summer Programme where they engaged over 80 children. The final family treat was a trip to Adventure Valley where 10 families went for a great day feeding animals, enjoying wildlife shows and lots of other exhausting activities. Every family said how much they have appreciated the whole 4 weeks of activities helping them get through the summer holidays actively engaged in something positive.



## North Ormesby Hub



The summer event were extremely successful with all age groups attending. Once again, the farm animals were popular with many of the children never seeing the animals close up before. It was great to see the parents joining in craft activities with their children.



Families in the Dementia Café were introduced recently to children from the Day Nursery at North Ormesby. They all enjoyed interacting with each other and we hope to make this a regular occasion each month at the Cafés.

A five week catering course for young adults is being run at the hub by Matthew Brown, providing a meal for elderly people each Tuesday free of charge under the name of Stan's Café, named in memory of Stan Hollis.

## Newport Hub

The Lunch Box Project at Newport Hub offered three weeks of activities with meals for children during the summer holidays. This included activities such as healthy cooking and smoothie making with Middlesbrough Environment Centre, Zumba and circuit training with Nur Fitness.



Over 300 meals were provided over the course of three weeks and the project was funded through Big Lottery, Urban Churches and supported with free food from Quorn.

Gresham's Wooden Horse took centre stage in the Hubs car park in September and it will stay for one month following work between mima and local residents.

## Easterside Hub

During the school summer holiday the hub played host to the Lunch Box project. Easterside provided free healthy breakfasts for children and their parents followed by a fun physical activity every Wednesday over the summer. The healthy breakfast was produced by EDRA café our resident volunteer café with funding from the Lunch Box Fund. This was a successful partnership with 10-15 children and their families attending the free breakfast sessions. Along with these sessions we held the first ever Jamie Oliver cooking sessions.





Work was undertaken in partnership with National Citizens Service at the Easterside Allotment, which was very over grown. The youngsters helped by weeding flower beds and providing plant pots to brighten it up, providing a great help to the elderly residents that make use of the allotment.



Easterside Community Fun day funded through Easterside Partnership was attended by the local community along with many partners and agencies such as Harbour Support, MEC, Cleveland Police, Tees Valley Wild Life Trust and Recovery Connections. The day was a great success and offered a great platform for agencies to connect with the community.

### Grove Hill Hub

Virtual Schools provided a learning space through for children that are not suited to main stream schooling 3 sessions per week 9.30-2.00

Harbour support service evening session are going very well with a good attendance due to the times of the sessions being more accessible to clients. Harbour also ran a summer holiday session and a small fun day for their clients at the end of the holidays. This partnership is working very well and harbour are looking at taking it to other hub locations.

Lunch Box and activity sessions – In partnership with public health and Middlesbrough Together these sessions provide a healthy meal and activity for all the family. The sessions were held every Tuesday. MFC provided a fun activity session whilst the parents helped prepare a healthy meal for lunch. These session worked very well and brought new families in to the hub. We are now looking at taking these sessions in to the local schools to reach those families that are hard to engage.



Friends of Grove Hill Hub Family Fun day was very well received by the local community. The day was filled with lots of fun things for the family but was also attended by agencies and organisations offering advice, support and information on projects and was well attended by the local community.