

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 6th December 2017

1. Area Care

The painting of bollards, sign posts and street furniture in France Street Car Park has now been completed along with the removal of shrubs and trees. New varieties of trees have been planted within the car park perimeter to replace those removed to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment.

Painting works of bollards, sign posts, knee rails and street furniture are also in progress in and around the Windward Way/Shepherdson Way area towards Borough Road and planting of spring bedding is complete throughout the town centre.

Planting is to be carried out on the vacant troughs on Wilson Street which when complete, will mirror the five existing planters that were completed on Exchange Square this year, which again will create a more aesthetically pleasing environment.

Fly Tipping prevention works involving 'bundling off' potential access points are to be carried out on the land adjacent to Stockton Street by the end of November.

Works to thin the trees and remove the understorey on Newport Roundabout are ongoing to improve visibility for vehicle users and enhance the appearance of the roundabout.

Area Care have been very busy since bonfire night removing bonfire remains and carrying out reinstatement works in over 90 locations throughout the whole of the town

Winter Hedge cutting works are currently being carried out town wide with main routes being prioritised along with the tidying up of shrub beds.

Area Care arranged for an external contractor to perform some investigatory digging in the Avenue of Trees as there is a large area of wet ground. The contractor discovered a broken field drain which was repaired Monday 13th November and recommended that the large wet area be totally excavated removing all of the wet earth and bark chippings (bark chippings applied to the area to absorb the water prior to the 10K) the soil replaced with fresh soil, firmed and seeded. This will ease the artesian effect drawing the water to the surface.

An area of grass located at the top of St David's Way which has been continually damaged by cars using it as part of their turning circle will now have works to reinforce it using hard core.

A mature oak tree was felled on the field near the Avenue Play Area in Nunthorpe due to Ganaderma, a basal and root decaying fungus, and has now been replaced with the planting of two oak trees. Two new Cherry trees have also been planted at The Avenue open space to replace the two that had died.

Shrubs were removed in the central fenced off area located in Swallowfields as part of a Councillor request following a 'Ward Walkabout'. Works are ongoing and the area will be reinstated and seeded in due course.

Area Care are in the process of arranging the erection of 6 benches in Fairy Dell Park on behalf of the Friends of Fairy Dell.

2. Waste Services

Green Waste Collections

The Green Waste Recycling Service will cease at the end of November. The service has been extended this year in response to requests received from Councillors and will recommence on Tuesday 3rd April 2018.

Christmas Working

Changes to Collection Days:

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Tuesday 26 th December 2017	Wednesday 27 th December 2017
Wednesday 27 th December 2017	Thursday 28 th December 2017
Thursday 28 th December 2017	Friday 29 th December 2017
Friday 29 th December 2017	Saturday 30 th December 2017

Normal Collections will resume on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

3. Waste Policy

Middlesbrough Council have partnered up with Teesside Hospice to recycle real Christmas trees this year. Residents can contact Teesside Hospice and for a small donation they will collect the real Christmas trees which will then be shredded and used to make pathways at Stewart Park. Teesside Hospice will be making collections on the following days:

- 5 January 2018
- 6 January 2018
- 7 January 2018

To arrange a collection book online at www.charityxmastreecollection.com or call 01642 811150.

4. Recycling Reward Scheme

In the lead up to Christmas and as a thank you to residents for participating in the recycling service all year the Council will be choosing 14 winners in December. All residents are reminded that all they need to do to have a chance of winning a £50 shopping voucher is to present their recycling by 7am on the correct day and at their normal collection point.

5. Stewart Park

Two Memorial Cherry trees have recently been planted on the lawn behind the Captain Cook Museum, one of which was planted in memory of one of our original Park Run organisers.

A number of trees have unfortunately had to be felled around the park due to damage and/or dying with potentially around five or six more to be removed in the next year or so. Each tree will be replaced over time.

The annual Frost Fair which is our Christmas themed farmers market is due to take place on Sunday 3rd December 2017 and will include live music and even Santa will be making an appearance!

The Central Lodge was officially opened by Askham Bryan College. Guests were able to take a tour of the refurbished Central Lodge.

6. Albert Park

Two memorial benches and three trees have recently been installed/planted around the park in memory of regular visitors to the park.

One of the mature Horse Chestnut trees has unfortunately been felled due to 'Bleeding Canker', a type of bacterial disease however there are plans to plant a replacement Horse Chestnut over the next four weeks.

The event space around the Cenotaph was cleansed and tidied and the benches and bollards re-painted prior to the laying of the first poppy on 9th November, Armistice Day on the 11th and the Remembrance Sunday parade on 12th.

7. Newham Grange Farm

The RSPB visited the farm on 8th October to promote awareness of the problems faced by birds over the winter period, and to encourage people to feed them and get involved with making 'bird cakes'.

The farms Spooky Halloween Walk took place on the night of the 26th October and was well attended with approximately 120 children and parents taking part.

8. Health and Safety Update

John Armstrong recently joined Middlesbrough Council to undertake the role of Health and Safety Manager. John has over ten years of experience gained from various H&S roles within the public and private sectors. Starting his career in law enforcement, John then moved into the private sector working in a variety of industries, including chemicals, manufacturing and distribution.

As the new H&S manager, John's first task will be to bring the H&S Team up to full strength with the recruitment of a new part time H&S Advisor to complement the existing team. Once in place work will focus around implementing a robust plan for the completion of H&S audits and fire risk assessments.

Work is underway to produce a bespoke H&S training course for Councils Executives and Directors with operational or strategic accountability for H&S. This course will be rolled out early in the New Year. In addition to this a new online accident management system is also under development which will be able to produce detailed periodic accident statistics when fully up and running. John is looking forward to the challenges ahead and is focussed on maintaining the high standards of H&S within the council.

9. Asset & Design Services – Acklam Grange Adaptations

Design Services have designed, tendered and delivered this project on behalf of Acklam Grange Secondary School within a tight timescale and limited budget.

The proposals were developed with the school in advance of the school summer holidays which were targeted for the construction works.

The proposals maximised use of existing floor space to minimise disruption to surrounding and fully utilised areas.

The agreed layouts provide two additional classrooms, senior management space and additional one to one interview / meeting rooms accessed from the main entrance / reception area to free up dual use spaces for alternative use.

The buildings were remodelled including the services and sprinkler systems to create new facilities complete with energy efficient lighting. The construction work was undertaken by external contractors with specialist sprinkler installers engaged separately and coordinated / managed by Design Services. Building Regulation approval was also resolved with Middlesbrough Council inspectors.

10. Historical Remembrance Walk – Linthorpe Cemetery

A Historical Remembrance Day Walk was hosted by the Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery & Nature Reserve on Saturday, November 11.

Starting at The Nursery Lane Gates Linthorpe Cemetery, the walk was led by local historian Jenny Braddy who has conducted many similar walks for many years at the cemetery and as befits the day her walk related to Middlesbrough history, the development of the cemetery, people buried in it and wars and conflicts. Children, parents, grandparents and volunteers enjoyed a very appropriate walk for the day.

The Act of Remembrance took place at The Cross of Sacrifice in the Cemetery from 10.50am, with a short wreath laying ceremony and a minute's silence at 11am. Panis Angelicus was played, the Exhortation was given and then wreaths were laid, two children laid the Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery Wreath and Malcolm Cummins, (Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery), laid the Bereavement Services Wreath upon their behalf, personal crosses were then laid after which the act of commemoration was closed.

Afterwards The Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery & Nature Reserve and attendees gathered for warmth and light refreshments which were produced by June Stubbs (FOLC volunteer), at The Hebrew Prayer House in the Cemetery.





11. Fundraising at Teesside Crematorium

The service has arranged to make a donation of £5000 to Middlesbrough and Stockton MIND, from its latest share of funds from the national Metal Recycling Scheme.

The service has been notified by Teesside Hospice that over £45,000 has been raised at Teesside Crematorium for the hospice since the Teesside Hospice Tree of Life was first installed in the Chapel of Remembrance in 2005. Teesside Hospice is very grateful for this “fantastic” contribution.

12. Requiem Mass at St Mary’s Cathedral

A Requiem Mass was celebrated by MGR Gerard Robinson on 19th November at the Cathedral and attended by 120 people. The service was coordinated by the Cathedral with support from Bereavement Services Officers who print the service sheets, send invitations to families who have recently arranged crematorium services and pay for the services of the organist.