

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 24th January 2018**

Events & Culture

1. Magical Middlesbrough – Christmas Lights Switch On – 23rd November 2017

Since 2013 the Christmas Light Switch On has been paired with the Reindeer Parade to create a full day of activity to launch the winter festivities in the town.

After a push from town centre retailers to have the lights on in time for Black Friday, the events were separated and the switch-on was returned to its historical time and date.

When paired with the reindeer parade, audiences of up to 10,000 people had been achieved by this event opposed to the 5,000 it historically drew as a standalone event. In 2017 the Magical Middlesbrough Light Switch On drew a massive audience of an estimated 11,000 people. The crowds were entertained by Heart FM's Tom Campbell who hosted a packed stage full of performances including the spectacular Flame OZ, local band Serinette and the Middlesbrough Town Hall 50 person strong choir. The event finished with a bang as for the first time the switch on finished with a fireworks display. The display was magical and a great way to launch Middlesbrough's Festive season.



2. Magical Middlesbrough Parade: Sunday 26th November

The Magical Middlesbrough parade once again smashed the previous year's attendance figures drawing an estimated 47,000 people into the town centre. The parade set off from Teesside University's campus heart which was a great new edition to the route. The university were really keen to be involved with the parade and provided lots of in kind support. The need to extend the route in order to allow for the ever growing crowds was established following delivery in 2016 and being able to have one long straight run made accessibility for people with smaller children, pushchairs and those with additional needs much more achievable.

The parade was made up of 350 participants and featured various different festive characters and costumes. In the weeks leading up to the parade families involved are encouraged to help design and make costumes together with the support of designers and artists - opening the children up to the world of creative and performance art at a young age and giving them an opportunity to do something together as a family.



Stronger Communities

3. Middlesbrough Food Summit

Middlesbrough Food Partnership ran an inspiring food event in November that showcased what has been achieved over the last few years and how Middlesbrough is at the forefront of the sustainable food agenda. The event was organised by Middlesbrough Environment City and sponsored by Warren's Group, who provide a food waste collection and anaerobic digestion service.

The event, opened by Mayor David Budd, included exciting, inspirational and informative talks by nationally recognised professionals in the field. Keynote speaker Professor Martin Caraher, Centre for Food Policy, City University London talked about the current state of our food system and future opportunities. Pam Warhurst from Incredible Edibles highlighted the role of food growing as a means of community engagement and regeneration.

The day also included workshops on replicable best practice, where colleagues from local businesses and institutions demonstrated how their work is having significant positive impact on healthy and sustainable food. Attendees could also visit a Meet the Producer event where local producers and suppliers showcased some of their fantastic goods and a guided tour of Middlesbrough's new food businesses.

Over 80 delegates attended, with people travelling from as far as Edinburgh, Peterborough and Preston. Feedback was extremely positive, including: *"I really enjoyed the event - I had no idea*

what to expect but found it interesting, stimulating and well organised"; and "What an incredibly inspiring event - brilliant speakers, excellent organisation and so well thought out - I loved the walking tour too and meeting the generous hosts at each stop off."

4. Well Done Wardens

A vulnerable adult known to the Street Wardens was found wandering the streets away from their known address. The elderly person was half-dressed and very confused. The Wardens engaged with the individual who informed them they did not know where they lived. The Wardens managed to take them back to their home and sit with them to have a cup of tea, staying with them until they were settled. A referral to Social Services was also made following the incident.

5. Homelessness

We have now appointed Homeless Link to undertake the homelessness needs assessment, which will be complete end of April 2018. The needs assessment will include identifying our hidden homeless, and it will also use data from the Housing Register to identify households who are sharing facilities with non-family members, to identify people who are vulnerably housed and/or sofa surfing.

6. Reducing Shop Theft in East Middlesbrough

The Community Safety Officer for reducing reoffending has been supporting neighbourhood police, retail businesses and third sector supportive organisations to address the issue of retail crime and repeat offending in the East Middlesbrough area. Adopting a twin track approach of both support and enforcement the CSO has worked with local stores to identify the most prolific and priority offenders and has identified some of the complex factors influencing their offending behaviours i.e. mental health and substance misuse issues.

Working with key partners the team has made referrals to appropriate organisations for 19 offenders to address their chaotic life choices. In addition, some offenders are subject to appropriate enforcement activities to deter them from reoffending and to support the victims (businesses) i.e. store bans, probation warnings and police enforcement. This is an ongoing project to build resilience within the retail sector in East Middlesbrough by having stores involved in communicating with each other and referring individuals of concern.

7. Missiles Thrown at Vehicles

In light of a spate of incidents involving young people throwing missiles at passing vehicles, particularly in certain areas of East Middlesbrough, the team have developed a multi-agency group working closely with partner agencies including Councillors. A range of interventions have been put in place to address the issue including a restorative intervention with young people identified as being involved in the nuisance looking at impact on victims and consequences to the perpetrators, designing out crime by changing environmental features to prohibit an 'easy get away' for those responsible and working closely with young people supporting them to take ownership and pride in their community.

8. Work With Victims

The Community Support Officer is working closely with the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) to develop an initiative for victims of crime and ASB in hotspot areas of Middlesbrough. The aim is to bring victims together who are experiencing similar issues in a particular area with the hope that they can support each other through shared experiences and ways of tackling the problem. Additionally the victims will be offered professional support from VCAS workers and sign posted to other agencies where appropriate. We will be delivering a pilot session in Hemlington over the coming weeks and look at rolling out to other areas throughout 2018

9. Libraries

Work has begun on an ambitious project to create book benches for Community Hubs and libraries to promote reading for pleasure to children. Throughout the summer children were asked to vote for their favourite children's books out of the top 100 compiled by local teachers. A Top Ten was

revealed and illustrations relating to these titles will be used for the book bench designs. Families at North Ormesby Community Hub have completed an Alice in Wonderland design while families at Central Library have finished a Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone bench which will be unveiled at the annual Harry Potter Book Night event on 1st February and join the Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibition until the end of February. Work will begin on other benches at Newport, Hemlington, Grove Hill Community Hubs and My Place in the New Year.

Christmas Dementia Café at Central Library

Over 25 people living with dementia and their carers attended a Christmas dementia café, and were treated to an afternoon of fun activities, including bingo and a Christmas Quiz, with an afternoon tea, all provided by Calor as part of their community giving project. Some of those attending had recently lost partners, so the café provided an opportunity to meet with others at this difficult time of the year for many. One of those attending, kindly donated £150 to help with the running of the dementia cafes. The service will be starting a new dementia café at Hemlington Library & Community Hub in January.



Book Benches



Christmas Dementia Cafe

10. My Place

Young people from My Place have been working on a community project funded by The Big Music Project with the aim of bringing the community together. Since October they have been involved in workshops to rehearse and plan a Christmas event, being totally led and organised by young people. They decided to name the event "My Place Musical Christmas" and nominated Zoe's Place Children's Hospice, raising £138. The young people presented solo performances and the evening ended with a choir of Christmas songs where friends and family all joined in.

My Place now hosts a weekly session on Friday evenings with young people from Newport, Gresham and East Middlesbrough alongside Safe in Tees Valley and the Linx project. Young people are transported to My Place for a youth session, the aim being to reduce anti-social behaviour.

11. Community Hubs

Newport Christmas Parade

Eight families took part in the annual Christmas parade. A garland workshop took place where mums and children decorated their garland. For most of the families this was the first time they had taken part in a parade.

Breast Cancer Awareness Session at Newport Hub

14 women from the BME community attended a Breast Cancer Awareness session. The session gave vital information of how to check your breasts for cancer.



The Friends of Newport Settlement Hub Annual Pantomime 'Aladdin'

One hundred and forty children and adults attended the annual Christmas Pantomime, supported by the Friends of Newport Hub. For some this was their first experience of a pantomime. Selection boxes were also given out on the night to each child.

Easterside

Volunteers from EDRA Café provided a three course Christmas lunch for the local community. Residents young and old enjoyed singing by children from Easterside Academy Choir performing a Carol Service.

Three local community groups who operate from the Community Hub have benefited from the guidance provided by staff to complete funding applications amounting to £1,500 for Christmas related activities through Ageing Better Middlesbrough.



Grove Hill

Benefit Take-Up events were held throughout December

- All available appointments were taken up by residents from the Grove Hill and the wider area.

Young Peoples Sessions

In partnership with Hemlington Linx for 10-15yrs were held at Grove Hill Hub. The sessions encourage local young people to take responsibility for their actions through activity's and mentoring.

North Ormesby

A Christmas Party was held for over 90 families during December. Volunteers dressed up as elves and helped Santa in the grotto.

A second Christmas Party was also held for fifty pensioners, working in partnership with Big Local who supplied tins of biscuits and raffle prizes

