

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 18th July 2018

1. Pybus Update

After action by Middlesbrough Council – following concerns raised by residents and elected members about the loss of historic fabric within the conservation area – Tesco halted works to the old Pybus building on Roman Road.

The latest update is that Tesco have now had a stone mason out to sample the stone to assist in making moulds to put back the decorative balustrade above the shop front and are pulling together a specification for the remainder of the building works that they are seeking to undertake to remediate their earlier works. It is anticipated that this will be received within 3 weeks.

Subject to agreement of the Local Planning Authority, the works are likely to take between 5 and 6 weeks to undertake and there is a 12 week lead in to the works for ordering of materials. At this stage a positive resolution to restore the local heritage is therefore anticipated and it is hoped this would be achieved before the end of the year.

2. Housing

Housing Growth in Middlesbrough continues to go from strength to strength. In 2017/18 the town saw a total of 476 new dwellings been completed across a variety of sites.

Moving forward into 2018/19 a number of new housing sites have started on site namely, Trimdon Ave, the site next to Tennis World, Brookfield Woods and Brookland Park, and the Bishopton Rd site in Grove Hill. In addition the sites at Rose Cottage, Millbrook, Ladgate Woods, and Hemlington Grange, continue to produce significant new completions each month. Looking at the first two months – April and May –of the new financial year (2018/19) there has been an additional 66 completions compared to 55 in the same period in 2017/18.

We have received some detailed research from the Northern Housing Consortium regarding the Tees Valley Housing Market. The most obvious messages are that we have sufficient land identified to not need a Garden Village, and to minimise the impact of transport across the Tees Valley then the housing growth should be concentrated in and around Middlesbrough.

Interest and publicity around Middlesbrough Council's intention to build and provide houses has been good – with our plans leading on a week-long series of ITV reports on social housing in the North East. A Shadow Board has now been established, and we will be meeting regularly over the next few months to discuss next steps.

3. Sainsbury's site – Middlehaven

Officers are currently in discussions with representatives of Sainsbury's with regards to submitting a planning application to subdivide the empty Sainsbury's unit at Cargo

Fleet. Sainsbury's are in the process of finalising the necessary technical documentation required to accompany the planning application, which once completed will enable the application to be submitted. Whilst there is no date for the application to be submitted it is anticipated that this will be within the next few months.

4. 50m Olympic Pool proposals

Middlesbrough Council has been approached by a party interested in the development of a 50m Olympic grade swimming pool in Middlehaven. The ambition is to rival the best venues in the UK, providing space for elite and international athletes and also for local swimming groups and the local community, with a view to hosting international swimming events and potentially the commonwealth games. Plans are still at the feasibility stage with a bid being made to the Combined Authority for funding to support the feasibility works which will identify the requirements for the next phase of work.

5. Tees Valley Combined Authority Bids

Investment proposals submitted to the TVCA for this year's investment pot consist of the following bids for the long-term aspirations of Middlesbrough:-

- *Historic Quarter*

The proposal addresses 3 key areas, a) Public realm to Wilson Street and Exchange Square, b) Building façade improvements to Wilson Street and Exchange Square through Council led grants system and c) Clean-up operation of street signs and furniture.

- *Middlehaven*

The proposal seeks support for a package of works with the aim of supporting the development of available development plots at Middlehaven; as well as improving the utility, animation and patronage of the area.

- *Middlesbrough Strategic Public Transport Plan*

The proposal seeks support to identify opportunities and overlaps between different non car modes to ensure seamless accessibility. Walking and cycling routes will connect to Public Transport Infrastructure at key points which will be identified by higher quality facilities such as bus super stops. Public Transport Services will be co-ordinated along key strategic routes to meet at dedicated Public Transport Hubs which enable passengers to access the whole of the authority area and facilitate future connections to the wider Tees Valley.

- *Middlesbrough Station*

The proposal seeks support to cover the design and delivery of the station platform to support Middlesbrough and Tees Valley's direct London rail links from 2020.

- *South Middlesbrough Highways Improvements*

The proposal seeks to support the infrastructure requirements to support the Housing Growth programme.

- *Tees History Centre*

This proposal seeks support to deliver a unique Tees History Centre to tell the story of Tees Valley, housing over a million documents and photos and 300,000 objects in an innovative, digitally driven environment, providing people with

modern access to their heritage. The facility would provide an opportunity to showcase local creative digital talent.

6. Middlehaven Infrastructure

A number of pieces of work are underway around the Middlehaven area including The Snow Centre, Rail Station masterplanning and wider regeneration plans. In addition to these, funding has recently been secured to deliver a new section of highway linking Windward Way to Cleveland Street.

As a result, an assessment is being undertaken as to how the existing highway infrastructure is currently being used and how it could be used in the future. The assessment includes a strategic highway model (due to be complete by the end of September 2018) and the proposed road link in particular provides the opportunity to provide a strategic East/West link across the Southern boundary of Middlehaven, while also enabling traffic free/reduced traffic routes to be extended from Albert Road/Rail Station to Middlesbrough College and the Snow Centre.

This strategic highway masterplan seeks to create a hierarchy of routes which will inform future development plans and provide high quality infrastructure for different highway user's needs, with part of this potentially resulting in even greater flexibility for future redevelopment.

There is a natural key route for pedestrians/cyclists which links The University, Civic Campus, retail centre, Albert Road, the rail station, through to Middlehaven. This asset needs to be enhanced to improve connectivity between points along the route, through improvement of public realm to promote non car accessibility. Reallocation of highway space to public realm along this route enables the provision of supporting uses to promote economic growth and vibrancy; improving the sense of arrival for the City Centre.

The junction of Windward Way and the proposed link meets at a critical pedestrian/cycle desire line for those travelling between the City Centre and Middlehaven. This scheme will provide a missing link for the aforementioned pedestrian / cycle corridor; enabling the potential future extension of the shared space boulevard further along the Middlesbrough College frontage. The College are supportive of the improvements as it will not only improve road safety in the vicinity of the college, but also benefit sustainable transport access between the City Centre and Middlehaven. The plan is to have the scheme delivered by March 2020.

In the meantime, localised works consisting of additional signing and lining to reinforce the 20mph limit are being installed to improve pedestrian safety links to the College site.

7. Road Safety Initiatives

Junior Road Safety Officers have been busy inviting the road safety officer in to their schools to help deliver important road safety messages. Over 600 pupils at Green Lane Primary saw a presentation about cycling safely/wearing a cycle helmet, 300 pupils at Berwick Hills Primary saw a presentation from 'Seatbelt sheriff' and then pledged to become deputy seatbelt sheriffs and 280 pupils at Corpus Christie R.C. Primary saw a presentation about staying safe during the school holidays. The Junior Road Safety Officers then arranged to do follow up awareness raising/competitions in their schools.

Year 10 students at Macmillan Academy became 'Crash Investigation Officers' during the school's annual health and safety awareness day. Students were provided with a crash scenario and supporting materials including highway codes/witness statements/newspaper articles and police reports and they decide what/who led to the described incident occurring. During their investigation the students become aware of the issues surrounding young driver collisions including speed/seatbelts/drink driving and distraction. Students also got the opportunity to try the brake reaction test, this helps them understand the stopping distances required by vehicles and the need to be cautious when crossing the road.

World Cup Drink Drive Campaign – through our regional work with RSGB (Road Safety Great Britain) a North East wide campaign was launched on 6th June to highlight to football fans the need to organise safe transport home after watching matches where they have been drinking alcohol and not to risk their own safety and the safety of others by driving themselves. Middlesbrough Football Club and Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner, Barry Coppinger also added their support. World cup resources including fixture lists/sweepstake kits and score predictor competition sheets were produced and all feature reminders about the campaign.

8. Sport participation

- *Middlesbrough Leisure Centre attendance figures*
More people attended Middlesbrough's leisure centres through 2017/18 than did so in 2016/17. Figures show that there was a 21.5 % increase in attendances across Middlesbrough's Leisure Centres from 697,017 in 2016/17 to 846,644 in 2017/18, an increase of 149,627.

The largest overall increase in attendances was seen at the Golf Centre where figures increased from 25413 in 2016/17 to 38270 in 2017/18, an increase of 12857 visits or 50%.

Swimming lessons also saw an increase with the Neptune increasing swimming lesson attendance from 453 in 2016/17 to 549 in 2017/18, an increase of 96 or 21.19%, meanwhile, the Rainbow saw its swimming lessons participation figures increase from 1022 in 2016/17 to 1196 in 2017/18 an increase of 174 participants or 17.02%

- *St Alphonsus Primary School Running*
Working with a local running coach, St Alphonsus Primary School will deliver running sessions for children alongside their parents/carers. These sessions will start in July and if successful funding will be sought to continue these session in the autumn term
- *Albert Park Tennis*
Working in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association, Tennis World and Tennis for Free and TS1 Sport, Albert Park will see the launch of Tennis for Free sessions starting in the summer 2018. These sessions, that will take place on Saturday mornings at Albert Park's tennis courts, will be free to access and will provide free equipment and coaching to enable the community to enjoy playing tennis in Middlesbrough. The 'Tennis for Programme' will not only provide coaching and equipment but will also see additional free court time available for independent play and will look to work with participants to train them to become 'Tennis Activators'.

9. The Max Whitlock Gymnastics Academy

Fresh off the back of his success at the Commonwealth Games, Max Whitlock was at Washington Leisure Centre on Wednesday 23rd May to launch his partnership with Everyone Active which aims to get more young people engaging and having fun with gymnastics. The Max Whitlock Gymnastics Academy will be delivered in conjunction with Everyone Active, and gives children access to engage and train with expert coaches through the delivery of in-centre sessions. Together, Max and Everyone Active are pledging to engage one million children in gymnastics by 2022. Everyone Active Middlesbrough are looking to establish these sessions in Middlesbrough from autumn of 2018.