

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 18th July 2018

Commercial Services

1. Newham Grange Leisure Farm

The transformation of Newham Grange Leisure Farm is now underway. Works are taking place in line with the agreed proposals to develop the farm into a valuable leisure, cultural and educational facility for the Tees Valley.

Early stage improvements have been completed at the farm now and more are underway, some of which include:

- An existing storage room is being transformed into a tuck shop-style kiosk to provide vending snacks and drinks close to the children's play area.
- The development of farm trails are underway and will be available very soon, ensuring better views of the animals for visitors.
- Den building equipment will be installed for children to create play dens in time for the summer holidays.
- New play equipment will be installed prior to the start of the summer school holidays and will enhance the current equipment within the toddler play and junior play areas.
- New go-karts are being purchased for the new tractor go-kart track.
- 'Talking tubes' will be installed around the maze so children can talk with others in different parts of the maze.
- Works are underway to transform the animal barn into an indoor small animal discovery barn.
- A larger enclosure is being created for the pigs – this will provide the pigs with more space and access to plenty of outside grass and make it easier for visitors to see them.
- More wallabies will be arriving shortly and a wallaby walk will be installed.
- An existing storage room is being transformed into a tuck shop-style kiosk to provide vending snacks and drinks close to the children's play area.

2. Civic Campus

The vision for working within the new Civic Campus building has been developed through a staff and Member engagement process that has taken place over the last three months.

The new building will provide a fantastic working environment with a mix of work, meeting, quiet and break out spaces to give staff the opportunity to choose the right place and right time to do their tasks. The building will ensure that staff and visitor needs are catered for.

The project has now moved into the second phase of the design process where the vision will be refined further into detailed plans. Engagement with staff and Members will continue as the project heads towards 'design freeze' in November, at which point the plans will be finalised.

3. Building Cleaning, Maintenance and Pest Control

Building Cleaning, Building Maintenance and Pest Control have received ISO 9001 in respect of it having in place an effective Quality Management System for the service. The service also received ISO 14000 which demonstrates our commitment to minimising and mitigating its impact on the environment.

These accreditations provide industry wide assurance to our customers and also demonstrates to potential procurers of our services that we have the appropriate quality controls and systems in place.

4. Catering Update

Letter from the House of Commons

On 15th June, Mike Hill, Member of Parliament visited Sunnyside Academy. During his visit he was shown around the school spending time talking to children and staff.

During his visit, Mike had a school meal. He followed up his visit with a thank you letter and made a point of saying how tasty his school lunch was and that it was much better than when he was at school. He sent his compliments to the Chef and everyone in the kitchen saying that they all must work very hard to provide such lovely meals.

Acklam Grange Geek Award

Acklam Grange School Catering Team have demonstrated passion for their work and excellent customer focus. The Catering Team were presented with a Geek of the Week award by the Head Teacher for creative thinking and a focussed approach. The team headed up by Patricia Morris, Unit Supervisor made adaptations to the morning break service during exam time and provided a wide selection of healthy snacks prior to the student's examinations to make sure they were adequately fuelled to support their concentration.

The Head Teacher presented the award to the team saying they were "integral" to the school and thanked them on behalf of the teaching staff, stressing how responsive they were to the requirements of the school and in providing an excellent adaptable meals service during an important time for students and school.

Food Waste Recycling

The Catering service have been carrying out a trial on the recycling of food waste. The trial commenced in November 2017 and has now been completed and fully embedded into our kitchen waste practices it has been rolled out to all but three kitchen sites.

We are working with Warrens who promote the benefits of recycling food waste to caterers and schools and how it can be converted into energy. Once the waste has been collected it is taken to Emerald Biogas which is a state of the art anaerobic digestion facility, this is where a biological process takes place to convert it into valuable commodities which include gas and electric to power thousands of homes in the region.

Fruit and vegetable peelings along with plate waste is separated in the kitchen and the containers which are double bagged are picked up on a weekly basis.

Warrens also offer the schools a leaflet sharing the process and an opportunity to talk to the children in the classroom with regards to recycling and how they can help with the Environment in many ways.

Bereavement Services

5. Planning for the Future

We are undertaking a review of some areas of our cemetery space including essential drainage, potential future cemetery sites as well the duration of burial deeds and the price arrangements for leasing a plot and for burials etc. Balancing the need for our legacy to be sustainable for the

next 100 years, against the desire to minimise funeral poverty in support of the Mayor's Vision, this makes Bereavement Service planning a real challenge involving the need for the coordination of a wide range of professional specialists.

6. Building design and maintenance projects at Teesside Crematorium

We hope to complete three projects during the current financial year at Teesside Crematorium. Each of the projects have been led by Design Services in partnership with Bereavement Services.

- The Chapel of Remembrance closed on 11th June to enable essential roof repairs to take place. The work will take approximately 3 months to complete and will involve removal of the roof, re-plastering the damaged internal walls and redecorating the interior. While the Chapel is closed, the Books of Remembrance are on display in a temporary facility adjacent to the Chapel.
- An attractive wooden canopy will be installed over the footpath that leads to St Bede's Chapel in order to protect mourners who have arrived early for a service, from the elements and to enhance the external appearance of our most well used Chapel.
- Subject to budget and timescales, we hope to significantly refurbish St Hilda's Chapel and as a result make it significantly lighter and more attractive in appearance internally. A scheme has been designed, however details have not yet been confirmed.

Area Care

7. Green Waste

The green waste collection service is extremely popular with our residents. The collected level of green waste has exceeded our expectations; in May 2018 we collected 1061 tonnes, which is a 21% increase on the same month in 2017. At times this has led to delays; due to this, Environmental Services are currently reviewing a number of service elements, to resolve the situation:

- Reanalysing our data in order that we conduct a re-balancing exercise of our collection routes/rounds/schedules.
- Operative skill sets - We are "up skilling" a number of staff in order that we have more flexibility/skills within our workforce & therefore increasing our capacity to avoid delays in the future.

8. Pest Control

Over the past 5 years Middlesbrough Council have provided a pest control service to whole of the Thirteen Housing Group across the Northern region.

This contract recently expired and was retendered by Thirteen Housing Group in May. As part of our tendering strategy, we set up a collaborative partnership with Durham County Council pest control services with Middlesbrough being the lead authority.

The tenders have just been awarded and we are delighted to announce that we have won pest control contract against five other contractors coming first in both quality and price.

The contract runs from July 1st 2018 for a period of up to 5 years and demonstrates not only our competitiveness and value for money, but opportunities for collaborative and mutually advantageous partnership working.

9. Trees

The Area Care operatives have felled several diseased trees which were discovered during the tree inspection survey in the following areas:-

- Thackeray Grove
- Newham Avenue
- Glenfield Drive
- Samaria Gardens

The operatives also felled a tree outside of Gore Sands after investigations revealed that the tree was responsible for structural damage.

Area Care had two operatives on call due to the high winds that were reported by the MET Office for Thursday 14th June, which resulted in operatives attending to :-

- 4 fallen trees (Lime Tree in Cowley Road)
- 12 fallen branches
- 3 fallen branches from privately owned trees

10. Summer in Bloom

Summer bedding throughout Middlesbrough has been planted with the addition of half barrel flower tubs in the South Middlesbrough area.

There have been several areas across the town where 'Annual Wild Flower' seeds have been sown, as a trial, to determine if this can be adopted across the town in all areas.

11. Albert Park

On Friday 15th June, Albert Park hosted EID prayers, this saw over 2,000 people attend early morning prayers to mark the end of Ramadan.

On Monday 9th July, the Mayor, David Budd, planted a tree to celebrate Albert Park's 150th birthday.

12. Stewart Park

The park hosted the very successful 'Party in the Park' event in early June, which had an attendance of over 20,000 visitors entertained by a host of shows.

The Circus rolled into town on the 26th June and entertained the public until 8th July.

The Tees Valley Primary Cross County took place on Monday 25th June, of which over 100 runners competed.