

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Bereavement Services

**1. Capital Works at Teesside Crematorium**

Work has been taking place to improve facilities at Teesside Crematorium. All of the design work for each project has been carried out by Design Services and the lead contractor has been Property Services.

- i. Work began in June to repair the roof and to redecorate the interior of the Chapel of Remembrance. The roof had deteriorated over many years and become unsafe and the interior plaster walls had deteriorated. During the repairs, temporary facilities were made available for visitors to view the Books of Remembrance.
- ii. A substantial and attractive new canopy has been installed on the approach to St Bede's Chapel, to help protect mourners who arrive early for services from inclement weather, and
- iii. On 20th August work will commence to refurbish the interior of St Bede's Chapel. The changes will address the main drawbacks regarding the design of the Chapel and will introduce much more light into it. The work will hopefully be complete in early November.



**2. Donation to Teesside Hospice**

As reported previously, families regularly give consent for the recycling of metals resulting from cremation at Teesside Crematorium as part of a scheme which is part of a national programme organised by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

Recycled metals include those used in the construction of the coffin and in orthopaedic implants such as hip, knee and replacement joints.

The scheme allows Middlesbrough Council, who run the crematorium, to make charitable donations to local good causes. The latest to benefit is Teesside Hospice, based at Northgate in Linthorpe, to the tune of £5,000.

“It’s hard to think of a more deserving cause than Teesside Hospice – what it gives to the people of Teesside when they are most in need of help and support is incredible.

“We would like to thank everyone who has given their consent to the crematorium’s recycling scheme it has made a huge difference over the years to lives helped by many charities.

“We know, however, that as great as a £5,000 donation to the Hospice is, that it actually costs £6,000 a day to keep the centre running so we would call on everyone to support Teesside Hospice in any way they can.”

As well as this latest donation, a further £44,000 has been raised for Teesside Hospice from the Chapel of Remembrance Tree of Life since 2005. Debbie Coulson, Marketing & Fundraising Manager at Teesside Hospice, said “This is an amazing donation which will make a real difference to our patients and their families – thank you so much to everyone involved.”

In previous years the scheme has raised thousands of pounds for Alzheimer’s Research UK, Dementia Friendly Middlesbrough and for the Teesside branch of Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, Butterwick Hospice, Teesside Hospice and Zoe’s Place.



### **3. Opening of Baby Memorial Garden at Teesside Crematorium**

A new Baby Memorial Garden was opened on 3rd August by Cllr Denise Rooney, along with representatives of the local charity “Still Parents”, the national Stillbirth and Neonatal charity, “Sands” and Marks & Spencer.

The project to create a Baby Memorial Garden at Teesside Crematorium was led by Joanne Holroyd (Bereavement Services Operations Manager) and Carlyne Reeve (Crematorium Supervisor), who enlisted the help of Sands & Bereaved Parents along with other Middlesbrough Council officers. The project was inspired by the publication of Institute of



Cemetery & Crematorium Management and “Sands” guidance, which was published in order to help improve practices into funeral arrangements for babies, nationally.

Joanne said.” The baby memorial garden is something we have wanted to create for some time. The Garden is situated next to an existing Baby Memorial Wall near Teesside Crematorium which seemed very appropriate. So many people have been part of this idea to create this special area. It’s been a massive journey with loads of commitment from everyone. I would like to say how proud we are of our accomplishment and to offer an extended thanks to all people involved. Marks and Spencer named “Sands” as their charity of the year and made a very generous donation which helped to purchase the animal ornaments for the Baby Garden. Our colleagues in Middlesbrough Council carried out the landscaping and ground works, and Bereaved Parents have listened, advised and helped enormously”



## Area Care

### **4. Trees**

Area Care Operatives have recently carried out essential felling works to two trees, one to the side of Gore Sands due to structural damage, and one at Connaught Road as it was infected by a root and basal decaying fungus (Ganoderma).

There are also another fifteen planned tree fells which are due to take place from August onwards, details as follows :-

Ribbleton Close – 1 x tree infected by Ganoderma.

The Grove, Brookfield – 1 x tree structurally unsafe.

Rear of Whernside – 13 x trees due to structural issues caused by previous pollarding works.

## **5. Enforcement Team**

Our Enforcement Offices have again been kept very busy dealing with an array of issues ranging from the incorrect disposal of waste to collecting stray dogs and investigating fly tipping incidents and in July and August issued a total of 6 Fixed Penalty Notices in the North and East areas of the town for both fly tipping and section 34 offences (failure to produce documents) since 9/7/18.

## **6. Waste Services**

We would like to thank residents for their continued support of the recycling services on offer across Middlesbrough, in particular the green waste service over the summer months. The blue lidded recycling service continues to be very popular with a significant amount of the town participating in the scheme, we would like to remind residents that if they are unsure on what items should be placed in the blue bin they go onto the Council website for more information or contact the Council for further assistance.

The back alley cleansing teams continue to a great job in trying to keep all the rear alleys clear of excess waste, we have seen an increase in household furniture being dumped in the rear alleys which is removed as part of the weekly cleanse. The Council continues to offer a very popular junk job service, which includes white goods, and we would encourage residents to use the service when they have large items that won't go into the normal refuse bin.

## Parks & Recreation

### **7. Newham Grange Leisure Farm**

Improvement works are continuing at the farm with minimal disruption to the many visitors we have had over the summer period, some of which include:

- Changes to the farm trail which will allow visitors an improved view of the animals as well as linking with various activities.
- Installation/erection of new fences throughout the farm.
- Completion of the new larger pig enclosure which will allow the animal's access to outside space and provides a more enjoyable experience for visitors.
- Installation of play equipment/trim track.

The improvement works have had a very positive impact on the farm so far with visitor figures up by 50% compared to the same time last year, a trend which we're sure is set to continue.

### **8. Albert Park**

The 6 weeks summer holiday programme is well underway at the park which includes arts and crafts, storytelling, and orienteering with many other exciting activities being on offer. The Yorkshire Cricket Board are also providing free pop up sessions as part of their current community programme.

After the success of the recent Eid Pray which was attended by over 2,000 people, a 2nd prayer took place in the park on 22nd August.

Farmers Markets will be hosted in the park on the last Sunday of every month.

## **9. Stewart Park**

Due to the poor weather the attendance at The Cleveland Show was unfortunately affected however a great time was still had by all those who attended.

As in Albert Park, the Yorkshire Cricket Board will also be providing free pop up sessions in Stewart Park as part of their current community programme.

Stewart Park will also host Farmers Markets on the last Sunday of every month as is Albert Park.

## **10. Fairy Dell**

A free family fun day took place in Fairy Dell on Wednesday 15th August from 10am until 2pm and included a programme of wildlife activities from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust such as model snail making, badge making, and mini-beat hunting and will even include an appearance from Sammy the Rainbow Snail!.

There was also be a wide range of sporting activities on offer from Dodge Ball and Tai Chi to Nordic Walking and Boxercise. There were also snacks and drinks available however visitors were welcome to bring a picnic if they wish.