

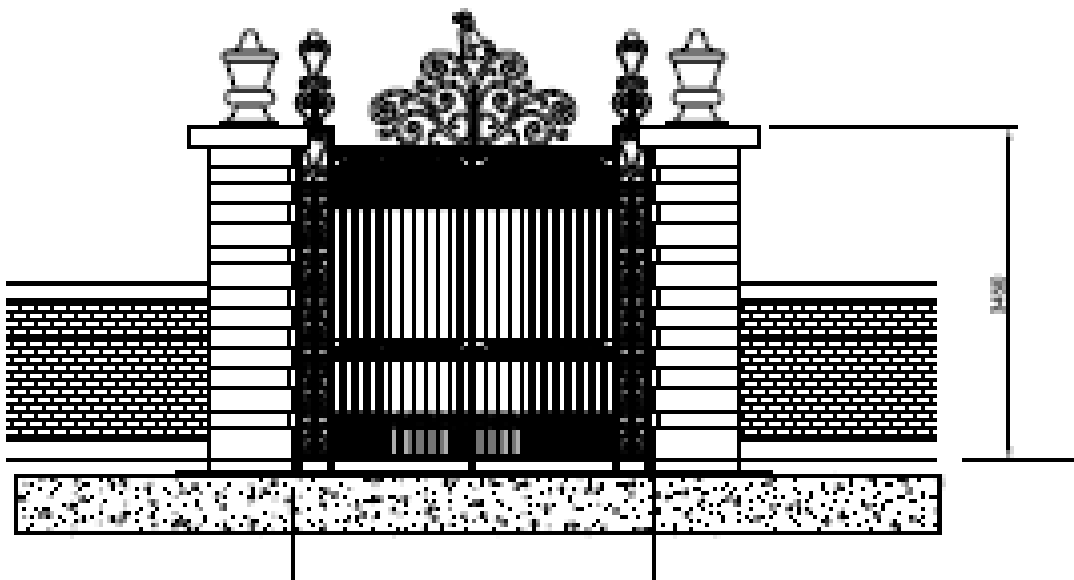
**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**1. Avenue of Trees**

Following planning approval for the gate restoration work at the Avenue of Trees, the identified sycamore tree has been felled, and fabrication of the gates and railings has begun.

Classic Masonry and John Aynsley Architectural Metalwork Ltd. have been commissioned to deliver the project. Work is due to begin on site week commencing the 29th October 2018 and is scheduled to be complete by 9th November. Hard landscaping and stonemasonry installation and repair work will take place in week one, and the gates and railings will be installed in week two. Work will not take place over weekends, but the site will be protected and monitored.

Acklam 2020 is keen to host a launch event, with a cutting of the ribbon photo opportunity as a memorial to the benefactor, Alan Hunter. The ribbon will be cut by Marilyn Woods of Acklam 2020 on Alan's behalf. Following this a small reception will be held at Acklam Hall. This launch is anticipated to take place week commencing the 12th November 2018.



**2. Business Compass Update**

The Business Compass support service continues to improve its offer as the one-stop-shop for universal business support services and business grant support. Marketing of the service is now more consistent, and the service is reporting a better geographical spread across the region. Economic Growth recently invited the Compass to present to front line Council Staff and Executive members to promote the service available to support Middlesbrough businesses. This has helped inform

officers and councillors, as a referral point for those who encounter businesses regularly.

To date, over 300 Middlesbrough businesses have engaged with the service and this has resulted in around 250 Middlesbrough businesses going through the full diagnostic process. Middlesbrough Businesses account for around 25% of all grants awarded across the Tees Valley, both proportionately and in terms of financial value. A further 40 grants are in the pipeline process for Middlesbrough businesses.

Service offered include:

- Business Fund – funds the Growth Service (Information, Advice & Brokerage) with access to a general business growth grant;
- Innovation Vouchers;
- Broadband Vouchers;
- Energy Efficiency grants;

The Compass service (along with TVCA) also hosted their annual Business Summit in Middlesbrough in July 2018. The summit gave businesses in the region the opportunity to network, do business and find out details from all the business support services operating in the area including each of the 5 Local Authorities. There were 744 attendees comprising 426 businesses from a range of business sectors including engineering, professional services, education and training, finance and creative and media.

### **3. Planning Update**

Persimmon Homes has submitted an application to amend the approved layout for their ongoing development site on the former Police HQ on Ladgate Lane, Middlesbrough. The scheme seeks permission for an additional 104 dwellings across the eastern part of the site which would take the overall site total to 309 units. Key considerations for the application relate to the spacing of dwellings, the achievement of appropriate pedestrian links with the wider footpath networks and the provision of open space within the site. A significant number of the proposed dwellings are shown fronting onto areas of open space and are house types which are replicated through the ongoing phase of development.

An outline planning application has been submitted by the council for the erection of up to 350 dwellings on the Brackenhoe site, off Alan Peacock Way near to the Prissick sports Village, which is an area allocated for housing within the Local Plan. Access to the site would be entirely off Alan Peacock Way and being an outline application, no layout or other details have been put forward at this stage, with the application only seeking permission for the principle of residential development. The application is at the beginning of the planning stage which involves consultation with the public and statutory consultees.

### **4. Living Our Values Event**

Staff from the Economic Growth and Major Projects departments presented stalls at the Living Values Event of 24 September 2018. The stalls were provided to give other Council colleagues a clearer insight into some of the major schemes happening within Middlesbrough and a chance to ask any questions which they may have. This included coverage of the new Civic Campus plans and how this will improve the working environment for all Council staff.

This approach is critical to ensure that the schemes gain maximum exposure and, to ensure that all staff play their part in the positive messages which need to be issued

to the residents of Middlesbrough and the wider world. There is no stronger message than word of mouth. By furnishing our greatest resource, our staff, into a positive message campaign, we can increase our reach and impact.

## **5. Major Tennis Tournament**

Middlesbrough's Sports Development and Economic Development services have met with the representatives from the National Premier Tennis League (NPL) to explore the opportunity for a major tennis tournament to be hosted by Tennis World along with David Lloyd's in Stockton; and to see if the local businesses community could get involved to support the event.

Players that have competed in the past include Wimbledon 2012 Men's Double's Champion Jonny Marray, 2016 Wimbledon story Marcus Willis, as well as Pat Cash, Aisam Qureshi, Wayne Black and Jamie Murray. The event has potential to attract big names, with drama, and excitement for the participants and spectators. NPL have submitted a bid to TVCA to support the event, whilst Middlesbrough Council have committed £5K through Sports Development and the NPL have been given the opportunity to speak at the next Invest Middlesbrough Breakfast Exchange to generate interest amongst the business community.

## **6. Rugby League World Cup 2020**

At the end of July 2018, the Tees Valley Consortium of Middlesbrough Council, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Middlesbrough Football Club and Darlington Mowden Park RUFC submitted its bid to host some elements of the Rugby League World Cup in 2021. The bid proposes to host a semi-final game and one group game at MFC and one group game at Mowden Park from the Men's games, however the ambition is to attract Australia as the home team and to be based at Rockcliffe Hall for the duration of the games.

In late August 2018, the Tees Valley consortium have been informed that they have been successful at the Applicant stage and are now in the Candidate stage. This stage allows for more detailed scrutiny of the bid and to allow for visits to the sites and areas proposed as host locations and training grounds. The consortium are revising any feedback from the bid along with possible visits to venues from RLWC2021 and have until October to make revisions.

The bid was well received and high level feedback shows the bid has a strong consortium of partners to drive it. The consortium continues to encourage and urge communities and businesses to back the bid via the Enjoy Tees Valley mechanism, whilst TVCA are administrating the 'back the bid' campaign. The consortium will find out whether the bid to become a Host City is successful, in January 2019.

The bid was originally investigated by Middlesbrough Council and MFC in late 2017 and subsequently a strong partnership has developed.