

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 17th October 2018

Parks & Recreation

1. Newham Grange Leisure Farm Developments

Following the busy summer period at the farm when we welcomed record numbers of visitors, we have received extremely positive feedback on the improvements made to date. Visitors have commented that they can now spend much longer at the farm due to all the new and improved features turning it into a half day or full day family trip out.

The farm saw an increase of over 160% in visitor numbers throughout September 2018 compared to September 2017 and visitor numbers in August 2018 were up by 116% compared to August 2017. July this summer also saw rises in visitor numbers with an increase of 66% from last July.

There is now a fantastic woodland walk which has opened up an area of the farm previously inaccessible to the public and there are lots of fun willow and wooden animal sculptures along the trail for children to spot.

The main walkways around the farm have been re-surfaced and provide easier wheelchair and push chair access. There is new signage throughout the site in line with the new farm branding which directs visitors to all the main elements. Further signage will be installed shortly.

Improvements have been made to the willow maze and there is now a surprise at the centre for children to find.

More picnic benches will soon be installed throughout the farm so families can relax and watch their children playing and additional play equipment has been ordered for the junior play area to complement the new trim trail.

There will shortly be a Halloween theme in the kid's activity room with special spooky arts and crafts activities for children.



2. Newham Grange – Alice in Wonderland Event

A bespoke event for visitors was delivered at Newham Grange Farm on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September. The event featured professional actors such as Alice, the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and other characters. Visitors explored exhibits set up across the farm replicating Alice's journey through the magical world of Wonderland. Event highlights which included a Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum interactive show, face painting, giant playing cards and family games.



3. Albert Park

The annual Battle of Britain Parade took place on Sunday, 16th September in Albert Park with the service being held at the Cenotaph. This year marks the 78th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and to commemorate the event 1869 (Middlesbrough) Squadron Air Training Corps were on parade with formal invites being extended to the public. The event was very well organised with Area Care receiving great feedback on this year's service.



Commercial Services

4. Civic Campus

The design work for the internal fit-out of One Centre Square is moving in apace. Engagements with every service to determine their requirements are well under way to inform the design of the neighbourhood areas. A number of drop-in sessions have been held for staff and the response to the principles of the new building has been very positive.

Fifty Champions have been identified across the organisation to represent their teams and contribute to decisions on layouts, furniture and colour schemes. Engagement will continue throughout the coming months with more opportunities for staff to get involved.

A 'test area' will be created in the Civic Centre during October/November of 2018. This will, as far as possible, replicate the typical layout of the new facility to allow staff to test a real world application of the proposed working environment and layout.



Bereavement Services

5. Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery

The council is enormously grateful for the support of our volunteers, and the Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve continue to perform an excellent and valuable service for our town.

In addition to the physical work that the Friends undertake to enhance the maintenance of the cemetery grounds, the general assistance they provide to visitors to the cemetery and the awareness that they help to generate about the significant memorials and the valuable natural habitats in the cemetery, they also organise an annual programme of events.

On Monday 17th September they helped to hold a Baby Memorial service at the baby memorial wall in the cemetery. This was attended by 25 parents and friends and the service was read by the Chaplain of James Cook Hospital.

On 14th September, in conjunction with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, an audience of 74 aged from 2 years to 79 years attended a Bat Night talk, followed by several sorties into various parts of the cemetery where bats were detected.

The friends have and continue to organise a wide range of other adult and child orientated events, walks and talks and are active on social media and the internet, helping to share their Love for Middlesbrough via www.folc-nr.co.uk

Environment

6. Area Care

Area Care cleansing teams were in attendance throughout the Annual Town Meal which took place on Saturday 15th September in Centre Square to litter pick and cleanse the area during and after the event.

The grass cutting season is once again coming to an end and Area Care will be commencing with Autumn/Winter works from October throughout the town such as hedge pruning and essential shrub/tree maintenance works.

A very busy time was had by Area Care throughout Wednesday 20th September due to the tail end of Hurricane Helene resulting in wind speeds of over 50 miles an hour and up to 30 trees either blown over or partially failed with branches obstructing highways. Staff were also in attendance throughout the evening and night with several roads being blocked as a consequence of the high winds with some incidents requiring police assistance. All incidents were dealt with rapidly and made safe by 9.00pm with three crews on call.

7. Joint Waste Management Strategy Consultation

The Waste Strategy sets out the joint approach to the sustainable management of waste within the Tees Valley and prioritises actions for the next fifteen years. It provides the framework for how the councils will work towards reducing the amount of waste produced, to recycle as much material as possible and find the most sustainable solution to deal with any waste that remains.

To support the delivery of a circular economy the following targets have been agreed in Europe, which the UK are expected to adopt:

- 55% recycling target for municipal waste by 2025
- 60% recycling target for municipal waste by 2030

- 65% recycling target for municipal waste by 2035
- 10% limit on the landfilling of municipal waste by 2035

The performance of the Joint Waste Management Strategy will be monitored against the following performance measures:

Performance measures	Unit/metric
Waste generation	Waste generated per household per year
Refuse and recycling	% of waste recycled per year
Waste recovery and landfill diversion	% of waste landfilled per year

We will continue to work together in partnership with other stakeholders in order to ensure sustainable waste management within the Tees Valley to protect the natural environment. We will strive for sub-regional self-sufficiency and be mindful of the proximity principle.

8. Enforcement Team

Our Enforcement Team have been very busy dealing with a variety of issues including fly tipping, littering and Section 34 offences (failure to produce documents), a total of five separate fines were issued during the month of August.

9. Waste Services

The Waste Education & Enforcement Team attended Teesside University on Wednesday 26th September. The team had a stall in the Student Union, as part of the welcome events for new students. Whilst at the event the team provided leaflets and information to students on how they should manage their waste effectively and what services the Council can offer in terms of waste collection. The team were also on hand to provide environmental enforcement information and the sanctions that can be applied if people do not store and dispose of their waste correctly. The team engaged with a number of students at the event which will hopefully be of benefit to the students, residents and the areas in which they live.