

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 5th December 2018**

Environment

1. One Planet Living

Middlesbrough has adopted the One Planet Living framework to deliver sustainable environmental, economic and social improvements. The One Planet Living approach provides a clear and practical framework to examine the town's sustainability challenges and to deliver appropriate solutions to improve the quality of life for residents. The 10 principles promoted by One Planet Living encourage individuals, communities and organisations to live greener, healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. Calculations show that if everyone lived like the average Middlesbrough resident does we would need three planets to sustain our lifestyles and our Action Plan aims to reduce this trend.

The One Planet framework supports the Mayor's Vision for 2025 of a Fairer, Safer and Stronger Middlesbrough and is reinforced through the Mayor's Promise: 'We will continue to support One Planet Living in Middlesbrough, encouraging local communities, services and businesses to adopt practices that promote a sustainable environment and the well-being of people.'

The OPLAG delivery team has completed an annual review and is currently reviewing its priorities in order to promote the work that is being delivered by MBC, partners and the community against the One Planet Living agenda.

2. Recycling of Plastic Waste

In response to a national outcry in regard to the amount of plastic waste finding its way into the ocean and the harm this is causing to marine wildlife Middlesbrough Council would like to ensure that it is supporting the national campaign. As part of our response Middlesbrough Council's notice of motion will endeavour to reduce its purchasing and use of non-recyclable plastic. In addition the Council will explore ways to expand the recovery and recycling of plastic across the Council. A number of different initiatives will be introduced over the next 12 months to help the Council achieve this goal.

As a side to the above we will also be launching a Marketing & Communications Plan for Recycling & Waste with the aim to:

- increase rates and the quality of recycling
- reduce cross-contamination
- increase exposure via earned coverage in local media.
- increase traffic to the recycling section of the Middlesbrough Council website
- shift customer enquiries online to the website

3. Waste Services

The Kerbside Green Waste Collection Service ceased at the end of November with the last collections took place week commencing 19th and 26th November. After this time green waste can be disposed of free of charge at the Household Waste Recovery Centre at Suez, Haverton Hill or alternatively using the Councils Bulky Waste Collection Service.

In the run up to Christmas, many residents dispose of unwanted items to make extra space ready for the festive season and as such, we would be grateful if residents can use our excellent Bulky Waste Collection Service to help ensure that waste items are disposed of responsibly and fly tipping is kept to a minimum.

Tonnage data for kerbside collections (April 18 to October):

- Refuse : 18,968 tonnes
- Recycling : 5,361 tonnes
- Green Waste : 5,715 tonnes

4. Area Care

A known fly tipping and anti-social behaviour 'Hotspot' located to the rear of Thorndyke Avenue and Fulwood Avenue has been greatly improved through a collaborative cleansing operation between Area Care and Thirteen group. Both parties removed litter and fly tipping from the area prior to Area Care operatives cutting the long grass, brambles and brash before finally applying herbicide to inhibit weed/grass regrowth.

As part of celebrations to commemorate the Queens Commonwealth Canopy MP for Middlesbrough Andy McDonald has planted 5 tree saplings donated by The Woodland Trust, in Thorntree Cemetery on Monday 5th November 2018, alongside the Executive Member for Environment Councillor Denise Rooney.

Bonfire Night

During the days leading up to, during and following the Bonfire Night Celebrations, Area Care have had to deal with 98 bonfire sites.

In the attempt to minimise disruption within our operations Area Care had a proactive approach, working with partnering agencies which included Thirteen Group, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade, by removing side waste and flytipping etc. This was from the planning stages right throughout the build-up and actual evening of 5 November.

On the afternoon and into the evening of Bonfire Night, Area Care patrolled the area with representatives from Thirteen Group and Cleveland Police. The approach was taken to refrain from removing bonfires which were located in an 'open' area and safe distance from any property or asset, therefore posing no risk.

Where the bonfire location was in close proximity to properties and, or assets, Cleveland Police instructed the residents to relocate to a safer location or distance or have the bonfire removed.

Understandably the volume of bonfire remains is taking some time to 'clean up' however we are working through the areas and we are aiming to remove all bonfire remains throughout Middlesbrough prior to Monday 19th November 2018, weather and resources permitting.

Parks & Recreation

5. Newham Grange Leisure Farm Developments

Throughout October the farm welcomed an increase of 84% more visitors compared to October 2017.

Christmas will soon be coming to Newham Grange Farm and for the first time the farm will have an extended festive opening period starting from 1st December and will only close on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Opening times are also extended with the farm being open until 7.30pm on weekdays and until 5.30pm on weekends. It will close early at 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

New festoon lighting is currently being installed around the farm which will illuminate the newly opened trails around the site from 1st December which means families will be able to explore new areas of the farm which will be lit into the evenings by the new lighting.

A reindeer trail will feature for children to find letters hidden around the farm to spell out a festive word in order to claim a prize at the shop and there will be Christmas-themed arts and crafts materials in the activity room for children to make decorations to take home.

6. Stewart Park

In conjunction with the Friends of Stewart Park and Askham Bryan College a six foot silhouette soldier "Tommy" is to be installed within the events space to commemorate all the soldiers that gave their lives in WW1.

Winter maintenance works began after the October half term which includes the cleaning of the lakes, trimming back of shrub beds, and removal of the wild flower beds by the museum.

7. Albert Park

The annual Trafalgar Day Parade and service took place on Sunday 28th October attended by Sea Cadets from Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Guisborough, Stockton and Redcar along with staff and dignitaries. The parade is held in commemoration of Admiral Lord Nelson's defeat of the French and Spanish fleet off Cape Trafalgar in 1805 despite being outnumbered and out-gunned.

Halloween half term events took place in the visitor centre including pumpkin carving and spooky story time.

Winter works are now been programmed which will include the cutting of the wild flower meadow, felling of a number of dead trees, and reseeded of some areas around shrub beds.

Both have changed to its winter opening from November 5th, with the park gates locked at 5pm every night until next spring.

Commercial Services

8. Minor Works Projects

Rosecroft Children Home

Rosecroft children's home required ideas on how to alter the bathrooms to make them more modern and move away from the children home style. Property services, working with the children, provided information on what they could have and also carried out the work. This is a great addition to the home as the children have had involvement on colours and what they wanted to have. The kitchen worktops were also renewed along with the flooring and the kitchen appliances altered to make the best use of the kitchen.

The young people shared their views as to what they would want the new bathrooms Kitchen to look like this included colour scheme of bathrooms toilets and kitchen. What appliances we needed to have in regards to the kitchen including American style fridge freezer and what colour the worktops are. Young people requested a walk in shower and a larger bath both of which have been actioned. Finally they asked for a full length mirror in the bathroom which again was put up for them.

Feedback on completion is that the young people really like the work that has been done and are happy with how the new parts of the home look.

Bereavement Services

9. Capital Works at Teesside Crematorium

Due to existing structural issues and significant water ingress through roof leaks, Design Services were requested to provide a fully detailed design package to refurbish the existing Chapel of Remembrance within Teesside Crematorium. Detailed drawings were prepared to indicate the repairs needed to the external envelope of the building and subsequent making good to the internal fabric.

Prior to works commencing and to ensure that full public access was maintained, the “Books of Remembrance” were relocated into a new temporary cabin located immediately adjacent and the Chapel itself was closed for the duration of the repair works.

Externally, the works included structural ties to secure the gable wall to the main structure, complete re-roofing, capping stone repairs and replacement and new guttering throughout.



West Elevation - 01

Elevation detail taken from design drawings



Existing West elevation

10. Donation to Great North Air Ambulance

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.

Great North Air Ambulance, who received a cheque for £5,000 from us on 31st October in the recently refurbished Chapel of Remembrance.

In previous years the scheme has raised thousands of pounds for Alzheimers 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.



Cllr Denise Rooney, Tracey Bowstead (public liaison assistant for GNAR) and Colin Duncan (Bereavement Services Manager)

11. 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.

The Friends took a full part in Discover Middlesbrough with the following contributions:

- 15th October: Transport & Travellers; a walk and talk
- 23rd October: Died Abroad; a geography lesson, walk and talk (17 people attended)
- 2nd November: For King & Country; a walk and talk referencing WW1



On Wednesday 7th November we had a visit from Year 6 of St Edwards School who were doing a WW1 project.

There was about 60 children complete with teachers and support staff, Eddie Rutherford was able to tell them about the founding of the War Graves Commission, the style of the grave stones and the individual markings, the actual cap badges of the regiments. The children were given crosses to place at the base of these stones and asked to stand and read the inscription for themselves. I/We explained how because of the men going away to war that women had do the men's jobs and also women worked in munitions factories working 12 hr shifts producing bombs.

We all met at the Cross of Sacrifice and Derek led a short act of Remembrance where the children read out some war poems, after a 2 minutes silence the event came to an end. On the way out we came to the stone remembering the two sailors from the HMS Patrol that was damaged in the Hartlepool Heugh Battering engagement after which the children went back to school.

One young lady was heard to say "Best lesson I've had!"