

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### **STRATEGIC**

#### **1. Creative People and Places**

Arts Council England is investing £17.5m of National Lottery funds in Creative People and Places projects across England. These projects will create arts experiences for and by local communities where people tend to engage less with arts and culture.

Along with partners we made a bid for the funding – and it was successful.

The successful bid for the £2m Borderlands project will see a major programme of creative growth with a focus in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland in the wards of Brambles and Thorntree, North Ormesby, Grangetown and Southbank.

Working with strong community hubs and creative organisations, the programme will be resident-led and will work with local and international artists with an aim to deliver more than 200,000 new opportunities for creative engagement over the next four years.

More information on the project can be found here: <http://creativepeopleplaces.org.uk/>

The Arts and Health bid is being developed across South Tees with South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board.

ESF funding of £2.7million was awarded to Hartlepool Council, to be delivered in partnership with the four local authorities. The funding is aimed at supporting unemployed and inactive people aged 16 and above to enable them to progress towards employment, education and training. The funding is available to third sector or small organisations.

Grants of between £10,000 and £20,000 are available. Decisions on grants will be made via a grants panel, which has a representative from each local authority. The ESF Community Grants panel met for the first time on the August 16. Three community bids have been submitted currently to deliver within Middlesbrough including those from Trade Techs Northern Ltd, Community Ventures Ltd and New Walk CIC.

#### **2. The Knife Angel**

The Knife Angel has welcomed thousands of visitors from across the Tees Valley and beyond, contributing to the town centre economy and demonstrating the impact of public art.

The Knife Angel is a sculpture created by artist Alfie Bradley at the British Ironworks at Oswestry in Shropshire. The sculpture was commissioned by the Home Office in 2015 following a knife amnesty. It is a monument of remembrance and holds the names of 100 people who have lost their lives to knife crime.

It was fashioned from more than 100,000 knives which were surrendered in nationwide knife amnesties during 2015/2016 and includes knives from the Cleveland area. All the knives were cleaned and made safe as part of the process and victims' families have had messages engraved on the wings.

Whilst the statue is in place educational support workshops have taken place in the Central Library delivered by Cleveland Police and National Knife Crime Campaigner Theresa Cave. Due to its tremendous success we are now investigating other opportunities to host pieces and exhibitions that will aim to harness the power of art.



### **3. Domestic Abuse**

Central Government has recently completed a formal consultation on new proposals to support victims of domestic abuse and their children in accommodation-based domestic abuse services. This includes the introduction of a statutory duty on local authorities to provide support that meets the diverse needs of victims of domestic abuse and their children, ensuring they have access to provision that is right for them. The themes of this consultation related to the definition of accommodation-based services and support, leadership and responsibilities, local and national accountability and guidance. The Government recognises that safe accommodation and support plays a critical role in how we respond to domestic abuse and its vision is that there will be a focus on individual

needs and circumstances of victims and children, particularly those who need to stay close to their support networks, or remain in their existing schools.

#### **4. Homelessness**

The 'sit up service' for rough sleepers will begin in September. This will be a shared service between Middlesbrough and Stockton and will provide a safe space, seat, warm drink and breakfast for a small number of rough sleepers. This is being funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (MHCLG).

A rough sleeper count will be carried out every two months from September, helping us to identify the true numbers of rough sleepers in Middlesbrough. An estimate was carried out in July which identified five rough sleepers - two were from Stockton, one was from Edinburgh, one was from Cardiff and one was from Middlesbrough. The homelessness team are working with individuals to try and reconnect them to their respective local authorities.

### **PERFORMANCE**

#### **5. Selective Landlord Licensing**

In North Ormesby the scheme is now well into its fourth year. To date we have licensed 879 properties. We have carried out 747 property Inspections. The tenancy relations officer continues to support new and existing tenants through inspection and post tenancy visits with a range of issues.

The Newport scheme commenced on June 13th. To date we have received 263 applications in respect of 509 properties. Those landlords who did not apply were sent a reminder letter on July 25 giving a further two weeks to apply and incurring a £100 late fee.

One of the largest landlords made an order to the High Court for a Judicial Review around the scheme. The courts refused to grant permission to bring the claimant's judicial review claim in this matter. The council is able to claim costs to the value of £1,500 in relation to this.

#### **6. Street Wardens and CCTV**

Over this reporting period the wardens have carried out a number of tasks which have included the following:

Street Wardens reporting - July 2019	
Number of anti-social behaviour incidents	290
Number of environmental crime issues	43
Number of community engagements	39
Number of low level crime/ police issues and intelligence referred to the police	143
FPN warnings issued	5
Enforcement vehicle hot spot visits	112
Total reports	632

Over this reporting period CCTV operators have reported the following incidents:

Type of report	
Number of recorded incidents captured	590
Number of reviews/ footage produced by CCTV and police operators	126
Total incidents reported	716

## **INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION**

### **7. Town Hall Website**

The new Middlesbrough Town Hall website is now live:

<https://www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk/>

The website has been completely rebuilt and is now fully accessible, features a modern design and huge improvements have been made to performance so it functions quickly on both a desktop and mobile device.

The task of finding information or purchasing a ticket is now much easier and we have the ability to promote the full offer of the Town Hall.

An abundance of feedback from staff and residents went into the finished product. A couple of additional developments will be taking place over the next couple of weeks to make further improvements.

The autumn season is packed with great shows with international orchestras and some of the UK's best comedy acts.

### **8. Programmes**

We are working strategically with Helix Arts to plan the next phase of the Falling on Your Feet programme, developing dance with older people which has been a transformative scheme for many participants.



The Dorman Museum's summer exhibition Safari opened on July 24 and is welcoming on average more than 150 visitors per day, generating income for the museum. Safari is an



exploration into the animals and habitats of Africa, linking to the museum's original natural sciences collection.



As well as Safari, there has been an absolute wealth of activities for youngsters throughout the summer holidays at our various venues and partner venues.

The Town Hall Gig School was a summer break opportunity for all young people to experience playing. The Town Hall also ran free steel pan workshops over the summer holiday for young people, funded by Arts Council England.



More than 400 people have used the Brilliantly Boro Creative Factory hub this month in the Hill Street Centre, a creative hub that aims to reduce social isolation and increase cultural engagement.

Alongside their regular programme of summer events and activities, the Dorman Museum and the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum took part in Together Fest, a week long family festival across the seven Tees Valley Museum Group venues. The events were free and were themed around family and play. At the Dorman Museum activities included safari themed yoga, games, and arts and crafts. The Captain Cook Birthplace Museum event featured a climbing wall, barefoot walk, performances from Innerstate Theatre and arts and crafts. Both events were well attended, drawing in many first-time visitors at both venues.



MIMA extended its ever-popular Art Trolley throughout the summer break, which was on offer every day except from Sunday and Monday, with a focus on making, playing and inventing.

Throughout August Middlesbrough Council and Middlesbrough College undertook a consultation across Middlesbrough aimed at understanding the need for adult education in communities. “Your voice matters” postcards were distributed to a wide range of venues including hubs and libraries and an online questionnaire was available via social media. Findings from the consultation will inform future community curriculum.

In partnership with NUR Fitness and Cleveland Police, Community Learning developed a Steps Towards Becoming a Police Officer course which was aimed at BAME women. The course was very successful and saw four women being shortlisted in the recent police recruitment and one securing employment.



Positive tickets is a project in partnership with Middlesbrough Council and Thirteen. It links in with the Selective Landlord Licensing team, street wardens, police and mini police and is about rewarding and recognising positive behaviour from younger members of the community in North Ormesby.

Between August and December these teams will give out positive tickets to those aged between five and 12 for what they or others in the community perceive as positive behaviour. In January they will be invited to an event to celebrate all of their contributions and be given a prize.

This will also generate positive relationships between younger members of the community and different agencies

## 9. Events

This year Mela was held in Albert Park on August 17 and 18 with a spectacular line up including Imran Khan, Tommy Sandhu, Jay Kadn, Circus Raj and Mr Bloom and many more. More than 35,000 people attended the weekend.

More than £22,000 Arts Council England funding and £10,000 sponsorship was secured to deliver the event this year.



The events team supported the Nagar Kirtan delivery in July, which attracted many people to the town centre. It was a tremendous event, transforming Centre Square for the day and was at the very heart of how communities can come together and celebrate.



I am working closely with the events team and next month I hope to announce exciting new plans for the Orange Pip Market and for the Christmas 2019 programme.

## **10. The Museums Service**

The Museums Service has completed its visioning project and will be commissioning a feasibility study for capital development opportunities for the Dorman Museum. The Museums Service has also submitted the required documentation to Arts Council England for the Provisional Accreditation Review of both the Dorman Museum and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum.

## **11. Youth Employment Initiative**

The YEI (Youth Employment Initiative) Big Event was held on July 10. This was a relaunch of the Tees Valley Pathways and Routeways provision following a funding extension. The event was planned and hosted by the community learning Choosing Pathways team and was held at Teesside University Student Union Hub. 20 Pathways and Routeways Providers from across the Tees Valley attended and 793 young people



from across Tees Valley were engaged. The feedback from the event was extremely positive from all who attended.

## **12. Google Bus Visiting Middlesbrough**

The Community Infrastructure Service has been successful in securing the Google Bus to visit Middlesbrough on Wednesday, September 4. The converted London Bus will be parked on Centre Square close to Central Library. Google will be offering IT Training from 9.30am to 5pm on a one to one basis. A number of Google trainers will be joining the facility that day delivering planned sessions including Stay Safe Online, Spreadsheets for Beginners, Writing for Social Media

## **13. Newport Community Hub**

The Hub hosted the 'Feast of Fun' for families to attend during the six week holidays. The Hub is into its eighth year of hosting this project. The sessions have been well attended, ranging from 50 to 80 in attendance. The Hub has worked in partnership with Middlesbrough Community Learning, Middlesbrough Environment City, Linx, Youth Focus and the North York Moors. Activities have included healthy pizza making, money box painting, football, bubble painting and an outing to Bowes Museum which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.



The Hub has a 50 Futures placement for six weeks. The placement is offering an opportunity for Helen to have a taste back into working life! Helen is now looking at volunteering at the Hub on a regular basis.

## **14. Thorntree Community Hub**

The Summer Programme - running three days a week - has included healthy activities and lunches supported with funding from Friends of Thorntree Hub, Thorntree United and Feast of Fun.

On Mondays it has so far welcomed more than 40 children with parents - face painting, the fire brigade's climbing wall and, of course, a tasty lunch courtesy of Feast of Fun funding all on offer. The numbers moved up to more than 60 children with parents on Wednesday, all enjoying a healthy lunch, a visit from Zoo Lab and lots of other fun activities provided by Tech Masters sport coaches. There were visits from Thirteen Housing distributing recycled school uniforms and the NHS bus, giving information on child safety and its Flu Fighting promotion.

## **15. North Ormesby Community Hub**

Twelve year old Sophie Harker was picked to travel to Georgia with the England Team, going on to box the Ukraine champion in the finals, winning on a 3 to 2 split. To come home with a European Gold medal was a great achievement and a first for the club.

## **16. Stronger Communities Middlesbrough**



The Gresham Together project has been led by Councillor Hellaoui and SCM team. The aim was to address the issue of littering. The project aims are to raise awareness of environmental issues, particularly around communal rubbish disposal.

There are several elements to this project that have been successfully delivered so far:

Children at Archibald and Sacred Heart were asked to design posters on raising the awareness of rubbish disposal, dos and don'ts of littering and recycling. There was also work with the youth groups in Newport Hub and Breckon Hill Community Centre so that older children/young people could also get involved in designing the logo.



The project hosted a launch event at Newport Settlement Community Hub on Saturday July 27. The event included lunch, an orientation presentation by the cohesion worker to 60 families from diverse communities within Newport on the theme of 'how to be a good neighbour'.

Local residents from the settled community volunteered at the event to provide support with serving refreshments and lunch. Finally, the parents/guardians sat in teams to do quiz in relation to the new information they gained from the orientation.

The young people went in another room whilst their parents/guardians were at the orientation presentation to design the poster. There were 40 young people that took part in the competition.

The project is to climax with a celebratory awareness event on September 6. During lunch there will be a launch of the finalised laminated posters and discussion will take place with residents who will share their ideas on how they can help spread the message about improving cleanliness in the streets and the area.

## 17. My Place



Twenty volunteers visited from Dallas, Texas. They decorated parts of the building and staff commented how uplifting it was to meet a group of young people who are so positive and giving. The young Americans gave up their holiday to help others and also gave musical performances.

The Dance School held a Family Fun Day in which more than seventy people attended. It featured a bouncy castle, face painting and candy floss. The children showcased their routines and had a fantastic time.