

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 4th September 2019

Decisions

1. Drainage Works at Acklam Cemetery

The Executive on the 20th of November 2018, agreed £412,000 funding from the Capital Programme to improve drainage at Acklam Cemetery as well as associated footpaths to both Acklam and Thorntree Cemeteries to provide future burial plots at both sites. In recent years the Council has had a number of complaints with respect to waterlogged graves at Acklam Cemetery and this has become progressively worse as we move into the remainder of the site. Future expansion of the Acklam Cemetery requires environmental protection of the existing stream through the introduction of a reed bed to capture any potential organic contaminants leeching into the water course.

As part of the reed bed works and drainage connection into the stream, approximately 100 trees may be affected and could be removed (however the Council will endeavour to keep this to a minimum). The Council has commissioned a specialist environmental impact assessment of the works which has categorised the area affected as being low / local quality habitat. The proposal is to replace every affected tree with two indigenous tree whips with a view to improving the quality of the habitat over time. Measures will also be put in place to protect the local wildlife throughout the works as set out in the environmental impact assessment. Consultation will also take place with local community groups regarding the proposed drainage works and associated mitigation measures prior to works commencing.

Strategic

2. Local Football Facility Plan

Middlesbrough Council have commenced working with Knight, Kavanagh and Page consultants (KKP), to put together a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP). The LFFP will identify possible investment opportunities within Middlesbrough on where they make key future investments in 3G pitches, club house/changing facilities, improved pitch maintenance and MUGA/small sided community facilities. On completion the report will be submitted to the FA and the Football Foundation to inform the FA's national strategy of 10 years re investment priorities at a local level for football facilities. Sports and leisure consultants, (KKP) will develop local insight for the LFFP through desk based research, a project steering group, football partner consultation and community consultation. This insight and consultation will happen at local authority level and in every LA across the country. Identification of Middlesbrough's priorities within the LFFP does not guarantee that funding will be made available for these projects, but it will add significantly to the strategic rationale for funding. The LFFP will map priorities for potential funding.

3. Communal Refuse Collections

Communal refuse bin collections have been an issue for a number of years within Middlesbrough. They attract fly tipping, vermin and prove very difficult in controlling waste types. In July we commenced with a trial by replacing the communal alley bins in 9 alleys, relating to approx. 486 properties, with individual refuse wheelie bins. The trial will operate until late September, whereby it be reviewed. To date it has proven very successful with no adverse comments. Should this success remain, our intention is to duplicate the process to 3 alleys, 447 properties, within the Newport ward.

4. Middlesbrough Council Workforce Waste

The Council continues its drive to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste disposed of from Council buildings by introducing a “no desk bin” policy in Resolution House. This has meant all desk bins being removed and communal waste and recycling areas set up instead which will hopefully encourage all staff to increase the amount of recycling, and also reduce the amount of single use plastic disposed of

Performance

5. Councillor One Stop Requests

Please see the table below which shows a tally per week (August) of numbers of Councillor OSS requests received within Environment for August 2019

Dates	Total Number of Councillor OSS requests received
08/08/2019 – 14/08/2019 inclusive	92
01/08/2019 – 07/08/2019 inclusive	87

6. Performance Reporting

Within Highways we are developing a suite of performance management reports to inform us of respective indicators relating to highways inspection completed on time, responsive maintenance works orders actioned within codes of practice timescales and for our scheme works reports to measure productivity to ensure we complete works within planned durations.

Area Care have now adopted the APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) Land Audit Management System (LAMS). This is a quality audit process that captures service delivery in relation to horticulture & street cleansing. The system is accessed/used via a mobile phone app & is fully automated.

Bi Monthly reports enable MBC to identify hot spots/trends and also gauge performance against other APSE registered Local authorities.

Involvement and Promotion

7. Albert Park

The fantastic Mela took place in the park on 17th & 18th August, this wonderful multi-cultural event is a must visit for the people of Middlesbrough and further afield.

A first for the park was to host a dog jog which saw over 400 runners and their pooches jog around the park.

Our in house Ranger summer events have been well attended, we host two events every week throughout the summer holidays.

W. Crows family fun fair will opened for the public for the last two weeks of August. The croquet season is in full swing.

The park hosted a “big latch on” event on 2nd August as part of a nationally held event to promote breast feeding.

The children of Chernobyl visited the park during their annual visit to the town, they enjoyed roller skating, swan boats, playing in the play area and lunch in the lakeside café.

The Environment Agency have been carrying out some work on the trash screen in the park to help prevent future flooding in the area which signals the start of a lot of work by the Environment Agency in the park on future flood defences.

8. Tree Planting

The Mayor has set the ambition of planting 10,000 more trees in Middlesbrough and I have been looking at how this can be achieved. As a first phase, land has been identified for approximately 1,200 trees and I hope to be able to start consultation with local residents on these sites this autumn, so we can get the trees planted as soon as possible. We will then be looking for further sites and involving any Community Groups and Ward Councillors who wish to get involved.

9. Ormesby Beck Corridor

Officers, Ward Councillors for Park End and Beckfield had a walk around the Ormesby Beck area recently to have a look at the opportunities for improvement of this fantastic environmental and community asset. I want to work with the Ward Councillors and local residents to look at how we can come up with a plan for the area and also look at funding to bring about substantial improvements that can help contribute to the quality of life for people in the area and make an amazing asset for this part of East Middlesbrough. I am also keen to look at other major open spaces in the town and work with Ward Councillors and Community Groups to see how we can develop some of our open spaces for the benefit of the community and the environment.

10. Ward Walks

I am embarking on a programme of having a walk around every ward to have a look at the issues in those areas. I have started with the first three wards; Park End, Marton and Linthorpe. I will be visiting the other wards over the forthcoming months and will be delighted to receive invites from Ward Councillors to visit their areas and for them to join me on the walks so that we can look at what can be done to address issues and get the views of residents wherever possible.