

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

### **Strategic**

#### **1. Town-wide Clean Up**

Over the summer, Middlesbrough's town wide clean-up saw volunteers working across the town to help Middlesbrough to become a better place to live, work and visit. Nearly, 550 volunteers, some from as far afield as the United States of America, were supported by the council. Alongside this, numerous independent activities took place. The level of community spirit shown at these events was impressive and demonstrates the passion people have for the town.

We are now looking to how we can expand on this initial clean up to encompass more volunteers and a wider level of activities.

### **Performance**

#### **2. Roadside Cleanliness Survey**

The Litter Strategy for England, published in April 2017, set out the government's determination to tackle roadside litter, particularly on the Strategic Road Network.

To understand the current situation, and the issues affecting local authorities and other land managers having responsibility for keeping these highways clean, the government commissioned Keep Britain Tidy to carry out an independent assessment of the cleanliness of those parts of the Strategic Road Network where responsibility for cleaning and other maintenance is split between local authorities and Highways England.

The assessment proved that Middlesbrough is successful in maintaining a consistently high level of roadside cleanliness. Middlesbrough is currently engaging with government officials to support other local authorities in reaching similar high standards of cleanliness.

#### **3. Enforcement**

A fly tipping prosecution was successful for an incident that occurred in August 2019 – A male was captured on CCTV fly tipping a sofa and despite numerous attempts to invite the male for an interview under caution, a Fixed Penalty Notice for section 33 was issued and subsequently ignored.

The case was presented to court. The male also failed to attend court of which a warrant was issued for his arrest. The male did finally appear in court on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and was found guilty of the fly tipping offence which resulted in a fine that totalled £732

#### **4. Refuse/Recycling**

Green Waste collection will move to monthly collections for October & November. This will enable residents to continue to recycle their garden waste over the coming months. New collection calendars are now available to download from the Council website with detailed collection dates.

### **Involvement and Promotion**

#### **5. Waste & Recycling Education**

The Operations Manager of Recycling and Education visited Acklam Grange School on Thursday 12 September to give a presentation during the Year 8 Assembly on waste and recycling. The presentation informed the young people how they can recycle in Middlesbrough and also discussed how they could introduce more recycling within their school.

#### **6. Stewart Park**

Weekly Ranger events were well attended with over 50 children learning to ride as part of the Learn to Ride event.

The PDSA road show 3 day event in August gave out advice and guidance to dog owners.

A full Autumn work programme of works has been drafted which includes:- Cutting back of brash from the boundary fence line, shrub pruning, cleaning lakes, painting of steps, new shrub bed to be planted at the entrance of the museum plus other works as required.

The Teesside Hospice hosted a '5k Bubble Run' in the park on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Works to explore options to improve the Play Area in Stewart Park have commenced.

#### **7. Albert Park**

Albert Park hosted the Mela on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August and attracted 35,000 plus members of the public from all cultures. The event enabled visitors to try amazing food from around the world and was a huge success from all agencies involved in making the event happen, and for visitors attending.

The wildflower display on the Italian Walkway was a fantastic display of colour gaining many compliments by those that visited the area.

September saw a number of commemorative events which start with the 'Battle of Britain Parade' on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

An Autumn work programme has been drafted which includes cutting back of wildflower meadow, cleaning the area around the lake, bench painting, shrub pruning plus other works as required.

An otter has been sighted on the lake which after taking advice from a number of agencies including Natural England there is no action to be taken except to enjoy the experience of seeing this beautiful mammal.

## **8. Play Areas**

As part of the ongoing investment in our local play areas improvement works are commencing during September/October 2019 at the following play areas :-

- Broughton Avenue
- Saltwells Road
- Mallowdale
- Sandringham Road
- Lansdowne Road
- The Avenue

The 'Play Area Investment Programme' will continue to improve play areas throughout Middlesbrough, each play area is to be reviewed and where identified, works or replacement of equipment will take place.

## **9. Newham Grange**

It's been a busy summer at Newham Grange and the investment that the council has put into the farm is reflected in both the visitor numbers and the reviews. Since April, as of the week ending the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September the farm has attracted over 73,000 visitors. This compares to just over 63,000 for the whole of the financial year 2018/19. Facebook reviews show an average score of 4.7 out of 5, proving that the farm is well on the way to becoming a significant visitor attraction in the Tees Valley.