

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Monday 23rd December 2019**

STRATEGIC

1. Arts Council Funding

Cultural Services has been successful in securing funding from Arts Council England for the Cultural Partnership Board in Middlesbrough. This funding will go towards developing the cultural sector in Middlesbrough.

There are a wide range of partners involved on this board – all absolutely determined to put culture at the centre of Middlesbrough’s journey, bringing prosperity and economic benefit to the town.

PERFORMANCE

2. Street Wardens

Wardens have continued to provide a high visibility deterrence within the town centre and across the borough via a combination of both mobile and foot patrols. A significant amount of intelligence has been shared with relevant partner agencies including Neighbourhood Safety, police, Trading Standards, Homeless Team and several specialist safeguarding and supportive services including Adult Social Care.

Some of the incidents included;

Wardens have contributed to ongoing police investigations following damage to the temporary exhibits of the snowmen in the town centre. CCTV footage has also been obtained and an individual has potentially been identified.

Wardens have been working with a high risk vulnerable homeless male. Staff referred him to Adult Social Care who are now addressing his mental and physical health needs and his housing issues are also currently being addressed.

Street Wardens have been continually supporting the homeless service by ensuring speedy responses and referrals for individuals whom are sleeping rough to ensure these are addressed in a partnership approach. The information and locations provided have assisted the team in the annual homeless count.

Management are currently preparing to welcome the newly appointed wardens who will undergo a detailed training programme in mid-December before they hit the streets early January.

During November, wardens have carried out a number of tasks, which have included the following:

Street Wardens reporting to date	
Number of anti-social behaviour incidents	2568
Number of environmental crime issues	193
Number of community engagements	260

Number of low level crime/ police issued and intelligence referred to the police	570
FPN (fixed penalty notice) warning issued	42
FPNs issued	1
Enforcement vehicle hot spot visits	1,182

3. CCTV

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

CCTV reporting to date	
Number of recorded incidents captured	1005
Number of reviews/ footage produced by CCTV and police operators	211
Total incidents reported	1216

With assistance from the CCTV operators, a male was detained by the police on James Street on suspicion of breaking into vehicles and garages in the area. Further reviews were then carried out with the information from where the locations of the attempted break-ins had taken place. The CCTV operator was able to identify and track the male back to these locations and he was subsequently arrested.

4. Neighbourhood Safety

Newport

We currently have three Civil Injunction applications with Legal Services. The applications relate to individuals who have been involved in anti-social behaviour in the Princes Road/Portman Street area of Newport.

Neighbourhood Safety has assisted private landlords serve two Section 8 eviction notices for individuals involved in persistent antisocial behaviour and crime in the Stowe Street and Warwick Street areas of the Newport Ward.

A further three individuals with drug and alcohol issues have been assisted into accommodation with support to address their chaotic needs.

Regular Newport walkabouts are taking place with partners to report and resolve a wide range of issues including properties open for access and environmental concerns.

An application for a Closure Order at an address on Portman Street is currently being prepared.

Town Centre

Neighbourhood Safety Officers are continuing to tackle persistent begging within the town centre. As with all interventions, a full package of support and accommodation is offered, prior to any enforcement action being taken (as a last resort).

Some recent interventions include:

- Three ABCs have been issued to persistent beggars;
- One ABC was issued to a young man involved in anti-social behaviour in the bus station (setting off the fire alarm and theft of radio). Since the ABC was issued this male has not returned to the bus station and the police are following up the theft of the radio;

- Two individuals found rough sleeping on the streets of Middlesbrough who were from out of area were supported to return to their area of origin;
- Three safeguarding / multi-agency meetings have been held due to welfare concerns of individuals;
- Three members of the Neighbourhood Safety Team volunteered to be involved in the voluntary Annual Rough Sleeper Count last week.
- Civil Injunctions:
 - ✓ Three year order has been granted against persistent beggar;
 - ✓ One application has been made and a court date issued for 10th December;
 - ✓ One application has been submitted to MBC Legal Department and currently awaiting further instruction;
 - ✓ One application is currently being completed and statements are being taken from affected businesses.

A warrant has been granted for a breach of a Civil Injunction which was recently obtained against a persistent beggar who had failed to work with supportive agencies. We are currently waiting for the police to execute the warrant.

Park End and Beckfield

A vulnerable tenant living in the Netherfields area was identified. The Neighbourhood Safety Officer (NSO) carried out a joint visit with police to discuss concerns around ASB. A number of interventions were carried out on behalf of the resident including a referral to Environmental Health for a significant amount of disrepair within the property. The occupant is now also being supported by MBC's Independent Living worker.

Linx Youth Project will continue its youth work in the Netherfields area following increased anti-social behaviour. As of 4th December, sessions will be ran from Markby Green Community Centre. Neighbourhood Safety will be attending the first session to engage with the young people and discuss consequences of anti-social behaviour.

Tenants causing anti-social behaviour in a property in Park End have been moved from the area. Despite a tenancy warning and support being offered, complaints continued from local residents including footage of the tenants fighting in the street. A NSO spoke with the owners of the property around the powers of a house closure and explained this behaviour would not be tolerated. The tenants have now left the area and residents have reported no further problems.

Pallister and Berwick Hills

Discussions are ongoing around improvements to the Neptune Centre walkway. A number of ideas have been put forward including the option to remove it completely. Neighbourhood Safety has consulted with councillors and police and will feedback at the next multi-agency meeting in December.

A Task and Finish Group continues around ASB in Pallister Park. A further three joint visits have been conducted and warnings issued by Neighbourhood Safety and police. An ABC Breach has also been issued on a youth who has continued to act in an anti-social manner.

Hemlington

MBC and Thirteen are continuing joint working to tackle crime and ASB within the hotspot areas of Hemlington. A master plan has been developed which includes the following proposals; increased CCTV, recruitment of dedicated wardens, Community Engagement Champions and a Crime Stoppers Campaign has also been launched to encourage local residents to report issues. Civil injunctions are pending against the most problematic individuals.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

5. Middlesbrough Town Hall

Middlesbrough Town Hall held its first 'secret diner' experience in the cells. The event was sold out within minutes and one visitor said: "I never thought I'd come to something so exciting!". We continue to work with The Secret Menu and hope to make further announcements in the New Year, hoping to attract more people to our fantastic spaces and places.

There is an increased commercial focus on the Town Hall, with the ambition to regularly host high profile acts – increasing the cultural offering for residents, promoting the night time economy and giving taxpayers value for money.

This new approach was exemplified with the announcement that Paul Weller was to play his only North East date at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Queues on the day started before 8am and sold out within 10 minutes.

6. Museum Accreditation

Dorman Museum and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum have received official confirmation that both museums have achieved Full Accreditation through Arts Council England's Museum Accreditation scheme. The work undertaken to develop a new vision for the museums and the production of a new Forward Plan was key to achieving Full Accreditation. The award lasts for five years at which point the museums will be required to submit another Accreditation Return.

7. Middlesbrough Theatre

At Middlesbrough Theatre the Autumn season ended on a high note with performances from two of our regular visitors: Big Girls Don't Cry (Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute) who played two consecutive nights for the first time and sold out both; and A Christmas Carol, who gave three performances - including a sold-out matinee for schools, to a total of 1265 people - 87% of capacity.

Sleeping Beauty starring Anne Hegerty (The Governess from ITV's The Chase) as the Wicked Fairy Carabosse – began on 25th November. Sales are performing well, 61% of seats already sold – 1100 more than at the same time last year.

8. Events

Remembrance

Julie Lewis from Democratic Services, the Middlesbrough Council events team and our community partners did an absolutely fantastic job organising this year's emotive Remembrance events.

A big thank you must go to all those who helped, giving those who wished to pay their respects the opportunity to do so.

Christmas

The Magical Middlesbrough Parade: Always a favourite with Middlesbrough families, around 30,000 lined the streets of Middlesbrough to watch the parade this year. We give thanks to TSU who provided the Curve building as a base from which the parade would start. Made up of over 300 children and young people from across the town - and supported with professional performers - the parade is truly a visual spectacle that brings magic of Christmas to the families of Middlesbrough.

10,000 people gathered on centre square to join in the annual Christmas light switch on. The switch on show was hosted by the BBC Tees favourite Gary Philipson who together with Jonathan Woodgate and future stars from the MFC under 18s team pressed the big red plunger to illuminate the lights.

9. Community Hubs

Hemlington Community Hub & Library

After a 5 month closure for major investment works, Hemlington Community Hub and Library re-opened on December 2nd. The refurbishment has included a new roof and externals and the interior has undergone a major facelift which includes new heating, lighting and updated meeting spaces and décor. This new facility will be an asset to the local community and will provide space for local community groups to meet and advice sessions to take place.

Thorntree Community Hub & Library

Alongside volunteers from Thorntree United community group, staff enjoyed a busy week over the October half term with activity days and a Halloween party. More than 20 families were engaged in arts and crafts, healthy sports activities and offered healthy lunches, supported by Feast of Fun.



During December, Thorntree Community Hub and Library offered local families the opportunity to see Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs at Billingham Forum in addition to holding a Breakfast with Santa morning when we were able to give small gifts to the children kindly donated by the local cash and carry.



BBC Novels that Shaped the World

The Library Service has been awarded £7,000 Arts Council funding, via the Reading Agency for a project to support the BBC Novels that Shaped the World festival. The service applied for the funding under the theme of family and friendship and proposes to work with carers to create a series of podcasts and radio drama to be showcased in June 2020, during Carers week. Middlesbrough is the only authority in the region to have been awarded the larger project grant funding amount within the scheme.

Marton Community Hub and Library

Marton Community Hub and Library hosted a Winter Wellbeing event on the 25th October to help local residents ensure they are informed about how to keep well over the winter months. A variety of agencies attended including Community Learning, Public Health, South Tees Community Bank, MIND and Healthwatch. More than 30 people attended and received advice and support.



Grove Hill Community Hub & Library in partnership with Middlesbrough College successfully offered a Health and Social Care Level One qualification to twelve residents. Running this course from the community hub enabled residents that would not have had the confidence to learn at the college attend in a familiar, friendly setting, building confidence and belief in their ability whilst learning new skills. All twelve learners passed and have now enrolled in the level two running throughout November.

Easterside Community Hub and Library run regular community litter picks throughout the year. The last pick was 19th Nov and with the help of local community group Active Easterside, Rotary Club, local residents and children from St Thomas Moore School, collecting 24 bags of rubbish.



Kidz Kabin Street Youth Services, in partnership with Easterside Community Hub and Library and Thirteen Housing, are running street youth session engaging children on the street, however due to the dark nights and cold weather the session now runs from inside the community hub. Children enjoy pottery, bike maintenance and much more. The session at Easterside was much needed for the youngsters in the area and has been met with good attendance

North Ormesby Community Hub and Library's craft volunteers have been working very closely with the Community Cohesion team to develop a multi-cultural group, who learn new skills from each other. Ladies from Sri Lanka have been happy to learn some paper crafts and knitting and crocheting. Middlesbrough Environment City support the group to cook where dishes from different countries. The group have become great friends and we hope to increase the numbers of residents from different cultures and we are working hard at creating more inspiring partnership.