



Legal and Corporate Services

## PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>Date:</b> Monday 27th April, 2026
<b>Time:</b> 1.30 pm
<b>Venue:</b> Mandela Room

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. Minutes - Place Scrutiny Panel - 16 February 2026 3 - 6

5. Minutes - Place Scrutiny Panel - 30 March 2026 7 - 10

6. Middlesbrough's Bicentenary - Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary Club 11 - 20

A Representative from Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary Club will be in attendance to share their plans for Middlesbrough's Bicentenary.

7. Section 106 Agreements - Verbal Update

The Development Control Manager will be in attendance to provide Panel Members with a verbal update on Section 106 Agreements.

8. Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Chair will provide a verbal update on matters considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 15 April 2026.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel is provisionally booked for Monday 6 July at 1.30pm, the date will be confirmed after the Council AGM and invites will be sent.

10. Any other urgent items which in the opinion of the Chair, may be considered.

Charlotte Benjamin  
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Town Hall  
Middlesbrough  
Friday 17 April 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors D Branson (Chair), T Livingstone (Vice-Chair), B Hubbard, A Romaine, D Coupe, J Ewan, D Jackson, J Kabuye and T Mohan

**Assistance in accessing information**

**Should you have any queries on accessing the Agenda and associated information please contact Joanne McNally 01642 728329/Tabitha Frankland 01642 726241, 01642 728329/01642 726241, joanne\_mcnally@middlesbrough.gov.uk; tabitha\_frankland@middlesbrough.gov.uk**

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## PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel was held on Monday 16 February 2026.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Branson (Chair), B Hubbard, A Romaine, D Coupe, J Ewan, J Kabuye and T Mohan

**OFFICERS:** J McNally, T Frankland, S Muir-Williams and L Hamer

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillor D Jackson

### 25/53 WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and read out the Building Evacuation Procedure.

### 25/54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

### 25/55 MINUTES - PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL - 26 JANUARY 2026

A minor amendment was suggested to the submitted minutes of the Place Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 26 January 2026, it was agreed that this would be actioned and the minutes were approved as a correct record.

### 25/56 ANNUAL UPDATE - FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

The Public Rights of Way Officer provided the annual update on flood risk management. Flood risk was a combination of the probability (likelihood or chance), of an event happening and the consequences (impact), if it occurred.

The Middlesbrough drainage system was extensive and complex in nature comprising open and culverted watercourses and a surface water/combined sewerage system. Flooding could come from a variety of sources including surface water run off, ordinary watercourses, surcharging sewers and from road gullies. Surface water flooding occurred when intense rainfall, often of short duration, was unable to permeate into the ground or enter drainage systems quickly enough, resulting in ponding or overland flows. It can cause considerable problems in urban areas. During periods of heavy rainfall standing water may accumulate even if the road gullies were in good working order. Some gullies could not drain the water away fast enough and therefore would surcharge during periods of intense rain fall. These intense periods of rain fall often did not last for long and once over, the gully would usually drain away the water without needing any attention.

The Environment Agency updated their long-term flood risk information, as part of the National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2) at the end of January 2025 with further map updates during 2025. An initial assessment of the new maps covering Middlesbrough appeared to show an increase in the extent of flooding. A desktop assessment of the new maps was being undertaken to identify those areas which may be a risk of flooding and require further investigation or modelling.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) gave an overview of areas that may be susceptible to flooding. It provided a comprehensive overview of all flood sources (river, surface water, groundwater, etc) across Middlesbrough, now and in the future, including the impact of climate change. The SFRA was a two-level process used by the planning authority to assess flood risk from all sources.

- Level 1 – provides a high-level overview to apply the Sequential Test
- Level 2 – offers detailed, site-specific assessments if development is necessary in high

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The Strategic Studies highlighted and prioritised the areas of greatest risk from combined flooding within each of the catchment areas. Middlesbrough was covered by several catchment areas. Each area would have a Stage 1 and Stage 2 study undertaken. Stage 1 focused on the collection, collation, analysis and prioritisation of information to identify areas of High Risk from Flooding Stage 2 focused on identifying opportunities within the top 3 or 4 High Risk areas to reduce or prevent flooding. The Public Rights of Way Officer advised the Panel that next time he would provide a map that showed the areas of greatest risk from combined flooding in Middlesbrough next time he attended the meeting.

The Environment Agency 'Medium term plan' was a rolling list of schemes which were refreshed yearly and were funded from Government funding allocation. The funding process was going through a review / change and so currently the programme was only over 2 years and the current funding runs from 26/27 – 27/28 Following a recent refresh of the EA's Medium Term Plan. The following potential scheme areas were included:

- Shevington Grove, Marton 24/25 (105 Properties)
- Connaught Road, Nunthorpe 27/28 (27 properties)
- Gresham Road, Newport 27/28 (40 properties)
- NIDP Study - Thornfield Road 26/27 assessment

The Public Rights of Way Officer advised on the following schemes that had been completed in recent years:

- Saltersgill / Beechwood fields Scheme was completed in 2021 and better protects around 306 properties.
- Marton West Beck Scheme was completed in 2022 and better protect 500 properties.
- Ormesby Beck Restoration Scheme was completed in 2022/2023
- Cornwall Close was completed in 2024 and better protects around 5 properties.

**AGREED** as follows that:

1. The information provided was received and noted.
2. The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment be circulated to Members.

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## **ANNUAL UPDATE - RIPA (REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS)**

The Governance and Information Manager was in attendance to provide the Annual Update on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA).

RIPA was the law governing the use of surveillance techniques by public authorities, including local authorities. RIPA required that when public authorities needed to use covert techniques to obtain private information about someone, they only should do so if surveillance was necessary, proportionate, and compatible with human rights. Typically, this related to suspected criminal activity that was likely to result in a custodial sentence of six months or more. Middlesbrough Council would not undertake any activity defined with RIPA without prior authorisation in the legally prescribed form.

The Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) had overall responsibility for overt and covert surveillance, including:

- creation, communication and review of this policy;
- appointing the CCTV Single Point of Contact;
- appointing the Coordinating Officer (Auditor) for covert surveillance;
- ensuring the availability of appropriate authorisers for covert surveillance;
- raising corporate awareness of the policy and proper surveillance practices;
- assessing corporate compliance with this policy;
- providing professional guidance on all matters relating to surveillance;
- engagement with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner and the IPCO;
- and overseeing the implementation of any post-inspection action plans recommended or approved by the IPCO.

Directors and Heads of Service had a general responsibility to ensure compliance with operations as detailed in the Surveillance Policy, this included taking reasonable steps to protect

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health & safety including any necessary risk assessments. There were a number of key roles in the process of approving and monitoring applications for both overt and covert surveillance. Depending on whether the surveillance was 'overt' or 'covert' would depend on the level of authorisation.

There were several key roles involved in the approval and oversight of both overt and covert surveillance activities. The level of authorisation required depended on the type of surveillance being undertaken. The presentation outlined these roles, which included the CCTV Single Point of Contact (SPoC), the Co-ordinating Officer (Auditor), Authorising Officers, and the Designated Person.

The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) was overseen by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner (Sir Brian Leveson) and created under the IPA to provide independent oversight and authorisation of the use of investigatory powers by intelligence agencies, police forces and other public authorities. It was agreed with the IPCO following their last inspection in 2020 that we continued to maintain an overarching Surveillance Policy which covered CCTV and RIPA. The IPCO conducted risk-based reviews of the application of RIPA powers. The Council completed submission of its compliance in January 2026.

An annual Surveillance Report and Policy were produced to report on the surveillance activity of the Council ensuring that it complied with its strategic priorities and statutory obligations, that they were lawful and that due regard to human rights and to data protection was given. The Council always looked to methods to gather information that did not require covert surveillance to be undertaken, in order to minimise the use of surveillance powers. This meant that activity remained low.

A Member queried whether CCTV could be used to catch and prosecute commercial fly-tippers, an issue that was prevalent in some areas of the town and discussion ensued about the strict thresholds and legal frameworks that local authorities must adhere to. Members requested a list of the key thresholds/requirements that must be met to authorise the use of covert surveillance.

**AGREED** as follows that:

1. The information provided was received and noted.
2. A list of the key thresholds/requirements that must be met to authorise local authority use of covert surveillance be circulated to Members.

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### **DRAFT FINAL REPORT - BARRIERS TO REGENERATION**

A copy of the Draft Final Report on Barriers to Regeneration had been circulated with the agenda. Members discussed the information provided and some minor amendments were suggested

**AGREED** as follows that:

1. Final amendments discussed in the meeting would be made to the report with final approval delegated to the Chair of the Panel.
2. The final report would be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.

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### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on agenda items discussed at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 28 January 2026.

- Scrutiny Chairs Update
- Executive Forward Work Programme
- Forward Plan Actions Progress
- Executive Member Update - Public Health
- Final Report of the OSB Task and Finish Group - Community Cohesion
- Artificial Intelligence – Update

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### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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The next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel was scheduled for 30 March 2026 at 1.30pm.

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**ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

None.

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**PLACE SCRUTINY PANEL**

A meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel was held on Monday 30 March 2026.

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Branson (Chair), B Hubbard, A Romaine, D Coupe, J Ewan, D Jackson, J Kabuye and T Mohan

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor I Morrish

**OFFICERS:** J McNally, T Frankland and G Kirby

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None

25/62 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and the Fire Evacuation Procedure explained.

25/63 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

25/64 **THE COUNCIL'S ROLE IN HOUSING OVERVIEW**

The Corporate Director of Regeneration was in attendance to provide the Place Scrutiny Panel with an overview of the Council's Role in Housing.

The panel were advised that the Council was a diverse organisation with housing cutting across several departments although there was no specific housing department. Members were advised that there had been a recent appointment to the role of Head of Strategic Housing which sat within the Regeneration Directorate.

Members heard that the Head of Strategic Housing would oversee a strategic framework to guide housing issues. The Councils Strategic Plan sat at the top of the Housing Strategic Framework along with the Local Plan detailing types of housing and where housing was needed. Members were advised that there were other strategies to cover all elements of housing including the Strategic Housing Needs Assessment and Supported Housing Strategy.

The Corporate Director of Regeneration advised Members that the Regeneration department did not cover physical development.

The Panel were informed that the Council owned a small amount of housing stock which had accumulated over the years, this included Newbridge Court, a block of apartments which had been handed over from Middlesbrough Development Company.

The Council was also responsible for managing standards within private rented sector through Landlord Licensing and the Renters Reform Act which sits within the Public Protection Department.

Adult Social Care oversees Homelessness and supporting clients with specific needs, the Head of Strategic Housing dealt with the supply and Children and Adult Social Care the demands for this service. Both directorates worked together on the Housing Demand Plan to set out what properties were needed to support residents.

A Member queried what powers the Council had in respect of empty properties. The Corporate Director of Regeneration advised that Councils had little to no power other than to raise the Council Tax premium. Debates took place every year about whether the premium should be increased but this in turn could increase the Council's uncollected debt as the landlords in question were not paying. Members were advised that when Anti-Social Behavior and

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environmental hazards started becoming an issue this was when the Council had more powers to enforce.

A Member stated that 1.5 million new homes were to be built as part of the Governments initiative. The Member asked how space and local demand would be determined it was advised that the Local Plan outlined the vision for housing development in Middlesbrough.

A Member raised the issue of homelessness in Middlesbrough particularly people living in tents which had gained recent media interest and what was the council doing to house people with addictions and ensuring they had access to appropriate services. It was advised that housing people with addictions would fall under Adult Social Cares remit to ensure they had the support that was needed. The Member requested that this be investigated further.

A Member asked for confirmation around what a Section 106 agreement was. It was advised that a Section 106 agreement was a legally binding contract between a developer and the Council to ensure appropriate infrastructure and services were in place for new developments. A Section 106 Agreement was a requirement for the developer to provide money to build or implement services.

A Member highlighted that when a developer begins building the Council needed to strategically plan and enforce everything that was needed to support the people moving into the new developments.

Members requested to investigate Section 106 Agreements further.

A discussion took place on town centre living and the need to have the right type of housing and facilities in place. The Panel requested to investigate this further.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Director of Regeneration for his attendance.

The Panel agreed to:

Further investigate –

- Homelessness
- Section 106 Agreements
- Town Centre Living

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## **MIDDLESBROUGH'S BICENTENARY OVERVIEW**

The Head of Culture was in attendance to provide an overview to the Place Panel on the plans for Middlesbrough's Bicentenary in 2030.

Members were advised of an ambitious 5-year plan to transform Middlesbrough by scaling up cultural programming, maximising visibility and deepening reach into Middlesbrough communities towards a major celebration of Middlesbrough's industrial heritage and creative future for the Bicentenary year in 2030.

Members heard that the Turner Prize a major British contemporary award was taking place in Middlesbrough. An exhibition of the four short-listed artists would be held in MIMA from 25 September 2026 to March 2027, Members were advised that when Bradford hosted the Turner Prize attendance exceeded 80,000.

Outcomes to be achieved from hosting the Turner Prize include:

- Visitor footfall/number of overnight stays in the town centre increased.
- Visitor spend in Middlesbrough Town Centre increased.
- Further investment is leveraged for culture.

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- Our young people and communities have access to culture and creativity, including opportunities to engage with the Turner Prize.
- Middlesbrough artists are platformed during 2026/27.
- Middlesbrough's position as a centre for creativity and culture is strengthened.
- People's perceptions of Middlesbrough locally, regionally and nationally improved.

The Head of Culture talked about Pride in Place, transforming underused, vacant and visually blighted sites into attractive, usable and safe public spaces through high quality public art and creative interventions. Delivered through artist and community collaborations that celebrate Middlesbrough's creativity and heritage.

Opportunities were available to support and grow grassroots creativity, co-curate creative programmes and co-design creative approaches to address local priorities within communities in Thorntree and Park End.

The Panel heard that Middlesbrough Football Club was celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year, celebrations include:

- **Animation of last mile:** Public Art, performances, street furniture, wayfinding, supporter-engagement opportunities.
- **Anniversary game:** Events in the Town Centre and Stadium
- **Town Centre programme:** Exhibition at Dorman, civic event, involvement in cultural events programme, digital signage

Between 2026-2031 there were many key milestones in the run up to the Bicentenary in 2031:

**2026:** New Contemporaries, Turner Prize, MFC 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, Orange Pip 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, new Storytelling Festival (National Year of Reading)

**2027:** MAW 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Middlesbrough Theatre 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Reopening of Old Town Hall (TBC)

**2028:** 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Captain Cook, Stewart Park Centenary.

**2029:** UK City of Culture – application in progress

**2030-31:** Middlesbrough Bicentenary, Teesside University Centenary, Middlesbrough Mela 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Reopening of restored Transporter Bridge (TBC)

The Head of Culture informed Members that Middlesbrough had been longlisted for UK City of Culture alongside 8 other places including Sheffield, Wrexham, Blackpool and Portsmouth.

Members heard that if successful a prize of £10 million to supercharge a transformation in growth by raising ambitions and putting culture and creativity at the heart of Middlesbrough's Place Strategy and aspirations for the future.

In 2030-31 several cultural programme events would take place including WOW Middlesbrough, major exhibitions, mass participation events, theming/scaling up of festivals, Homeless World Cup, opening of new cultural/digital assets and street parties.

Members were advised of an opportunity to create a Digital Heritage Museum of Middlesbrough which would bring together two museums and Teesside Archives offering permanent and touring exhibits.

Capital projects were also being undertaken including:

- Town Hall roof repair and equipment programme at Town Hall & Theatre (£6.1m).
- New recording studio complete at Town Hall.
- Access improvements complete at Town Hall & Theatre.

An extension to the Little Theatre was also being considered which Members agreed would be extremely beneficial.

A Member commented that this was a fantastic list of upcoming plans/events but highlighted that more communication was needed with residents/Councillors/wider public to talk up the town. The Head of Culture confirmed there will be a 'What's On' list on the Council website and a creative tourism office is being looked at.

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Another Member commented that there are many famous people from Middlesbrough, there stories need to be told and we need to celebrate them. It was also noted that inspiration could be drawn from other northern towns and cities that had successfully transitioned from industrial centres into thriving cultural hubs.

The Chair asked how can Councillors get involved and help. The Head of Culture responded that it would be useful to share what communities/wards want.

A Member queried if there was any funding available for local events, the Head of Culture confirmed that there would be some funding for events within local communities.

The Chair thanked the Head of Culture for her attendance.

The Place Panel agreed to:

- Note the information provided in the presentation
- Invite the Head of Culture to future meetings to provide updates to the Panel

25/66 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE**

The Chair provided a verbal update on matters considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 18 March 2026.

Members were advised that the final report on Barriers to Regeneration would be submitted to the Executive on 10 June 2026.

25/67 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR, MAY BE CONSIDERED.**

The Chair encouraged Members of the Place Scrutiny Panel to complete the survey on Scrutiny Functions by 13 April 2026.

25/68 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

27 April 2026 at 1.30pm

# A Bicentenary Heritage Trail in Three Dimensions

The story of Middlesbrough -Where From, What Now and Where are We  
Going! - Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary

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Club



## A project which can offer some positive answers to all three of these elements

- ▶ The Past - Why Here ? Without the Tees, Middlesbrough simply would not have happened - the need for deeper water with more cargo capacity creating a viable future port. An attractive grid plan town built.
- ▶ Ironstone bonanza -rapid development, untrammelled growth, UK immigrant labour force, unique culture, world scale production embracing science...beside the river Tees for over a century and a quarter.
- ▶ Geography and water depth dictate downriver trade movement - a continuous process since 18th Century at Yarm.

# We have an opportunity now to celebrate our past using positive structures which connected people and communities across the globe...

- ▶ 'Tees Steel - Bridging the World' Our Heritage Trail Concept - A linear walk through the 'Ironmaster's District'
- ▶ We produce replicas of bridges and buildings which have brought people, cities and continents together - Sydney Harbour, Kolkata (Calcutta) Zambezi, Tyne, Europe and Asia at Istanbul and several more potentials. Work with local colleges to bring costs into rational levels and in doing so bring Pride in our Town into reality on the ground with young people. Alongside this would be 'Corten' 3d models of Ironmasters district activity. Seated areas where QR codes can tell stories and play video - we already do some of this on THW and more of in a future facing project.

## Today's Story - The Present - Why and How

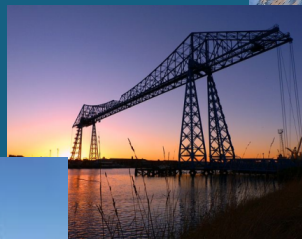
- ▶ This river Reach is host to THREE National Trails - Unique?
- ▶ The Teesdale Way, our new King Charles Third National Coastal Path and Sustrans Route 1 all share this special pathway
- ▶ Over the past five years Middlesbrough Erimus Rotary have been enhancing the environment along the riverside as the photos will show. A mile and a half of native deciduous trees have been planted. We have worked with Middlesbrough College and AV Dawson both of whom are now Corporate members of Erimus and Middlesbrough Council and have received financial support from PD Ports
- ▶ We have also introduced Tees Heritage Walk - Now in its fourth iteration working with Middlesbrough College and ETC Colleges and supported by three local rotary groups, last year £20k for over thirty local charities but capable of much more. This has cost Council taxpayers.....Nothing!
- ▶ A pictorial story of this follows for you

# TEES HERITAGE WALK

Walk for your chosen charity or club

Route options from 1 to 11 miles return, starting at Middlesbrough College on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 2026

Find out more and enter at [middlesbrougherimusrotary.org](http://middlesbrougherimusrotary.org)



Hosted by



# Tees Heritage Walk Route Map



Outbound route is shown in **RED**, the return route in **BLUE**, the wheelchair diversion in **GREEN** and the Dock Dawdle in **BLACK**

As return routes from the Infinity Bridge and the Barrage involve steps, wheelchair users and walkers wishing to avoid the use of steps should use the outbound route back to Newport Bridge



- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0. M'bro College Heart      | 4. Newport Bridge          |
| 1. Transporter Bridge       | 5. Tees Barrage checkpoint |
| 2. Teessaurus Park          | 6. Infinity Bridge         |
| 3. Paralloys Ltd checkpoint |                            |

Distances from College Heart (miles):

- Dock Dawdle - 1.0
- Newport Bridge and return - 6.9
- Tees Barrage and return - 9.8
- Infinity Bridge and return - 11.0

Note that wheelchair diversion and routes avoiding steps are shorter

# What Next

- ▶ Our planting plans now extend with hedgerow planting incorporating more trees scheduled for this autumn courtesy of the Tees Community Forest initiative . Wildflower copses to be planted through a partnership with Middlesbrough & Cllr Peter Gavigan. Over time this is transforming the riverscape. We would benefit from increased CCTV in partnership with local riverside-based companies for mutual benefit. The result can become a ‘Secure Greenway’ joining our two major conurbations bringing health and wellbeing benefits to all of its users.
- ▶ We are now active members of TUNN (Tees Urban Nature Network), participants in GCNE (Green Corridors North East) and are working toward a linkage with National Trust at Ormesby Hall and Yatton House.
- ▶ This spring we have sown Wildflower borders and planted Buddleias within 5 local primary schools and one Academy.
- ▶ Erimus is a founder member of a group seeking to develop a Passport to Culture across the Tees Valley- this too can play a positive part in a Bicentenary and City of Culture ambition

# The future - where are we going?

- ▶ There exists within this initiative the potential to offer our digital sector a blank canvas in this area to posit their ambitions - how they do that will be for them to put forward - in a space which can offer linkage to our past and enhance our present can we invite our highly successful and innovative games groups an opportunity to display how their skills can grow the future potential of Middlesbrough and Boho Tees!

# Thank you

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