

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY SAFETY - COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 29 November 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

Warm Spaces Creative Event at Central Library



As the weather gets colder, and Libraries become warm spaces, Samantha Clark, Community Hub & Library assistant has created a 'Weaving on Wheels' craft trolley for people to come in and enjoy at Central Library.

The free to use resource is already being used by the community and is available every day for up to 4 people at a time.

Digital Transformation at Acklam Community Hub & Library



Middlesbrough Council are one of only 26 local authorities to receive funding from the first round of the Arts Council's Libraries Improvement Fund.

The funding has enabled the service to transform its digital offer. This includes the transformation of the IT suite at Acklam into a modern and vibrant space which benefits from the latest tech with new public computers. Dedicated seating is available for customers to bring their own devices to this popular venue to study which is now equipped with charging facilities to ensure that devices never run out of power. A height adjustable desk is also available, allowing customers to select the most suitable height at the touch of a button.

In the coming weeks, as we continue to improve the digital offer for customers, work will take place to refurbish the IT Suites at Newport and North Ormesby Community Hubs.

Visits



Over the past few weeks, I have visited the hubs at Easterside, Grove Hill, Hemlington, Marton and North Ormesby. I have been really impressed with the range of activities on offer to local people, I would like to thank our Neighbourhood Manager Adam Parkinson for arranging these visits.

I also attended My Place in Middlehaven which currently houses the amazing St. Hilda's model, it has previously been displayed in MIMA and Fountain Court and has now returned to its natural home.

The picture was taken during a visit to Hemlington where I was shown an example of a hedgehog which was created from the pages of a book by Gill the coordinator.

Libraries Data

Activity	September	October	Total
Main entrance footfall (MyPlace + Community Hub & Libraries)	16,712	17,904	34,616
Public Computer use (sessions)	1,884	1,751	3,635
Active Library Users	2,328	2,228	4,556
Children 0-4yrs:	282	246	528
Children 5-12yrs:	619	526	1145
Pre-Teen 11-12yrs:	18	15	33
Teen 13-15yrs:	44	53	97
Adults 16-64yrs:	677	725	1402
OAP 65yrs+:	688	663	1351
Book Loans (physical copies)	11,030	11,863	22,893
Active eBook users	372	312	684
eBook, eAudio & eMagazine loans	1,461	1,515	2,976

Black History Month

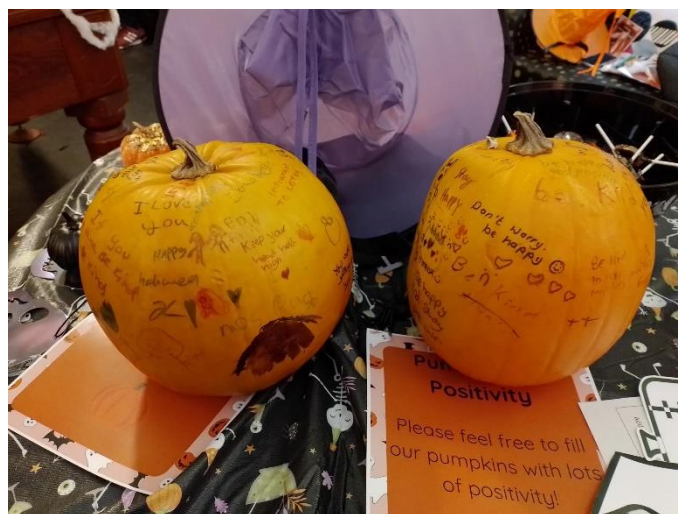
Newport Community Hub hosted a performance of the 'Island Movements' ballet. This is a short performance telling the story of the lives of a family from the Windrush generation. The audience then had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with the dancers and creators of the ballet.

I thoroughly enjoyed the event which was well attended.



Halloween Events

Several half-term Halloween events took place across our Libraries and Hubs, ranging from parties, creepy displays and spooky Lego.



"We Matter" Halloween Party

I attended the "We Matter" Halloween party which was open to all looked after Middlesbrough children and their families. Activities included a Halloween Haunted trail, Scary Disco and a Creepy Karaoke



Cleveland Fire Service

I attended Middlesbrough Fire station as they hosted a Halloween themed open day on the 28th October. The event was well attended with a range of activities on offer.

North Ormesby Hub

The Hub hosts Middlesbrough Amateur Boxing Club who recently achieved fantastic success with 2 National Champions and 4 champions in the Boys Club. The season only started in October! The Evening Gazette highlighted their success with an excellent article that included photos of all the winners. Their achievements have been supported from a grant from the MBC Community Development grants which helped the manager purchase 3 new boxing bags as the old ones had split.

The manager, Tony Whitby, recently received a Keystone Platinum award from the Boys & Girls Clubs Association for more than **40 years voluntary service** to young people.

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships

Dates of meetings for the new NAPs are in Councillor's diaries and will start in November, providing an opportunity for ward members to meet with key partners and raise any issues they feel need a multi-agency response. It will also be an opportunity for attendees to hear what is being done in their area.

Neighbourhood Safety Activity 01/10/2023 – 31/10/2023

To support the work of the wardens we have a team of 6 dedicated Neighbourhood Safety Officers.

During the month of October, the Neighbourhood Safety Officers investigated **120 incidents** of Anti-Social Behaviour which included supporting **25 victims**. The team have progressed several actions against perpetrators and some examples of this work can be seen in the good news stories below.

We are currently managing more than **160 perpetrators** of ASB within Middlesbrough and have carried out in excess of **600 positive actions** within communities. We are now in the process of using community protection notices to take action against individuals who blight our communities. We have made over 60 referrals with intelligence to the Police and into support services, which include adults and children's social care.

The Neighbourhood Safety Service have dealt with **1102** service requests during October with the leading category being reports of fly-tipping and waste related matters.

We dealt with **97** requests for service relating to untaxed and abandoned vehicles which resulted in **10** vehicles being removed from the streets of Middlesbrough. We also responded to **47** requests for service relating to stray dogs/ animal related issues. In the month of October, we utilised PSPO powers on **2** occasions for breaches of the order, with one fixed penalty notice issued.

Community Protection Warnings

In October, 16 Community Protection Notice Warnings were issued for those begging and drinking in and around the town centre. Three have progressed to a Community Protection Notice, with two fixed penalty notices being issued.

Collaborative Working

The Community Safety Team have assisted CID from Cleveland Police in the identification of a male who was responsible for a serious assault during the night time economy, this attack left the victim unconscious on the ground outside McDonalds. After a guilty plea the attacker has since been jailed for 27 months.

Missing People

The Community Safety Team have located 4 missing people in October to support partners and make sure our most vulnerable are safe.

Teesside Park Operation

The Community Safety Team have conducted joint patrols with police and these will continue in order to gather evidence to tackle the issues of ASB in the Teesside Park and France Street car parks. The team have linked in with security staff at Teesside Park and started to build evidence against those causing issues at the location. From here we will be taking robust enforcement action by utilising powers under the 2014 ASB Crime and Policing Act specifically the community protection notice powers.

Safer Streets 5

Following a successful bid to the Home Office, the Council will receive £330,720 of the £1 million pounds allocated to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Safer Streets 5 scheme. This brings the total amount of Safer Streets funding in Middlesbrough to £1.8 million. This year we have focussed on anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime in Longlands and Beechwood and Central wards, as these were identified as having particularly high levels of such incidents. I want to thank the team for all their hard work in pulling these bids together. They provide much needed financial support to enhance our community safety offer in areas with the highest levels of issues.

The project will run over 18 months, starting this October, and will include:

- Target hardening packs for approximately 500 properties for vulnerable residents and repeat victims of burglary. Equipment will include the installation of ring doorbells, property marking kits, solar lights, window alarms, alarmed padlocks, timer switches and much more. This work will be carried out in partnership with Cleveland Police Crime Prevention
- A dedicated Safer Streets Officer will be employed to tackle town centre anti-social behaviour within both the day and night-time economy. This officer will work with local

businesses and licensed premises to improve town centre safety, with a particular focus on street drinking and persistent begging. A wide range of supportive interventions will be provided as well as civil enforcement action for those who fail to engage.

- 30 barrier rails & concrete “Lego” blocks will be installed at various locations to tackle ongoing motorbike nuisance.
- Monthly community clean-up operations will be organised and a community skip will be placed in fly-tipping hotspots every month. The Council and Thirteen Housing will work in partnership with local residents on this project.
- The Professional Witness Service which was piloted in Hemlington and Berwick Hills will be expanded into Longlands & Beechwood and Central Ward. This work involves covert surveillance operations and evidence gathering.
- 11 additional CCTV cameras will be installed in Longlands & Beechwood.
- Various publicity campaigns will be introduced regarding town centre safety, environmental anti-social behaviour, including training for private landlords and several motorbike campaigns.

Councillor Janet Thompson
Executive Member for Community Safety