

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CLLR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 17 July 2024

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

Libraries and Community Hubs

Euro Sticker Swapshop

1. Collecting football stickers is almost as old as the game itself and appeals to supporters of all ages. Middlesbrough Libraries are laying on a couple of special events for football fans.
2. All are welcome to attend Euro 2024 Sticker Swap sessions at Hemlington and North Ormesby Community Hubs & Libraries on Saturday (July 6) from 10am to 11am.
3. A second session will be held at Acklam Community Hub & Library on Saturday, July 12, also from 10am.
4. These sessions are a fantastic opportunity to find that elusive missing card to complete a collection, chat to fellow fans and make new friends.
5. All are welcome, admission is free, and no booking is required, but children must be accompanied by an adult.
6. Summer reading challenges will be taking place in our Libraries and Community Hubs starting from the 6th of July.

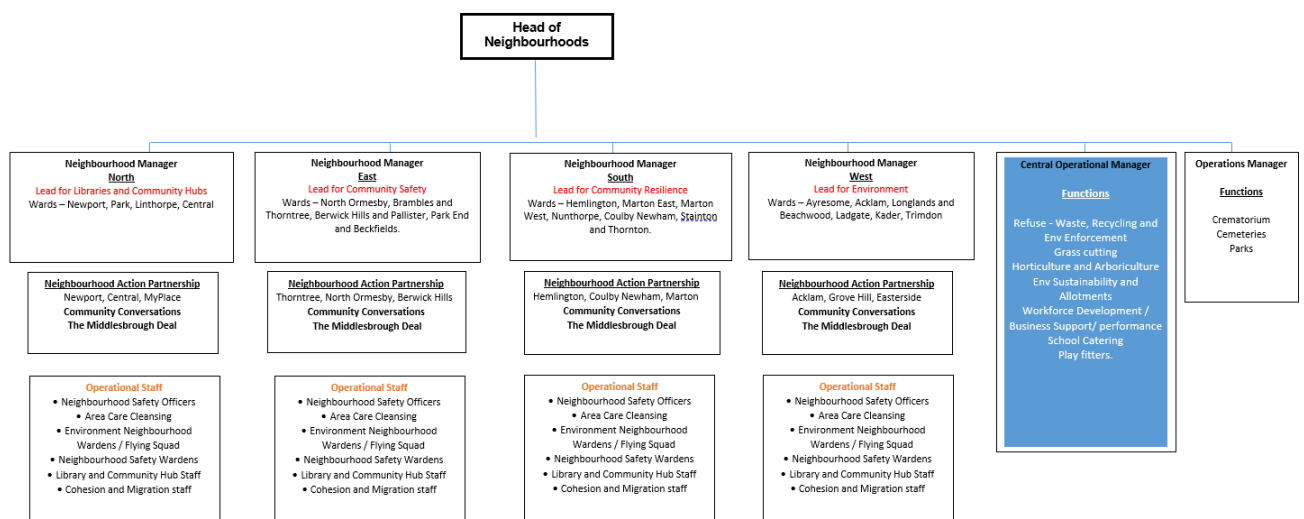


Blue Peter Book Club LIVE

7. During May half-term children created their very own airplane and launcher as part of the Blue Peter Book Club LIVE craft event.
8. Children aged 5-15 were eligible to apply for a Blue Peter book badge and The Blue Peter Book Club recommend a book to read each month.

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs) Neighbourhoods model launched

9. Council services are being brought closer to the communities they serve as part of a new model launched last month.
10. The neighbourhood's model will see dedicated managers and staff members based in the north, south, east and west of Middlesbrough.
11. Staff on the ground will concentrate on how communities can be improved. They will also respond to issues including crime, antisocial behaviour, and area care.
12. The change in approach will see a named lead manager for each area, as well as operational leads for street cleaning, enforcement and community development.
13. Staff from Environment and Community Services are initially making up the teams, with those from different directorates expected to join them as the model is developed.
14. It will increase the visibility of Council officers in the community and builds on the success of the locality working model which has already been in place in Newport and Hemlington.
15. Locality working saw Council staff working more closely with colleagues from different departments and partners such as Cleveland Police and other emergency services, probation and youth justice services, housing providers, health colleagues and the charity and voluntary sector.
16. The new structure focuses on the following



South Middlesbrough Neighbourhood

Marton Community Hub and Library

17. A snapshot of some of the great activities delivered throughout May 2024!

- Martyn the Music Man (Thursday mornings 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd May) – a free music and rhymes session for preschool children and their parents/grandparents/carers
- Knit & Natter (Thursday afternoons 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th May)
- Lego Club (Saturday mornings 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th May) – a free family-friendly Lego session
- Library Reading Group (Monday 13th May)
- Stay and Play (Monday mornings 13th, 20th May) – a free session with toys and books for babies and toddlers and their parents/grandparents/carers

Hemlington Community Hub and Library

Martin The Music Man at Hemlington Library

18. **Description:** Parents and carers of children under 4yrs / pre-school were invited to Hemlington Library to play, sing & dance to nursery rhymes session with a musician, interactive instruments for the toddlers to play, sing & dance along to popular nursery rhymes.

19. The sessions are funded by the Friends of Hemlington Library to enable them to offer the activity as a free drop-in.

20. Recruitment workshops and Coffee Mornings throughout May and June workshops included:

- How to search, register and apply for Jobs, apprenticeships and work placements
- How to fill in application forms
- How to get support from the employment hub

Coulby Newham

Coulby Newham Food Bank Coffee Event

21. **Description:** The Coulby Newham Food Bank Coffee Event was designed to support members of the community accessing the food bank. This event provided free coffee and a welcoming environment for attendees. Community members were given support and advice with their Universal Credit (UC), housing, and any other support they needed. Were working correctly.

Community Safety

Examples of work undertaken by the team in the month of May 2024

Hemlington

22. A nuisance motorbike which was being repeatedly reported to MBC and police during May has been located and recovered in Hemlington.

23. Riders of this bike had been causing a nuisance across Hemlington, Coulby Newham and Marton wards.



24. A bag was also found with the bike containing general cycling tools, a screwdriver, a kitchen knife, and a pair of bolt cutters. A resident from Marton believes the riders of this bike had been trying to steal a motorbike from the area.

Court Result

25. Police were called to a violent incident on 26 November 2023 in Hemlington where an officer sustained a serious injury, 5 males were arrested at the time and 3 of those were remanded in custody. The males appeared at Teesside Magistrates Court on 20 May 2024 and all 5 pleaded guilty to violent disorder; they are due to be sentenced on 9 August 2024. The 3 males who were remanded in November 2023 remain in custody until their sentencing.

Enforcement Actions taken throughout May

26. A walkabout was carried out with Thirteen Housing, a number of issues were reported from missing drain covers, damage to a play park, road signposts damaged and fly tipping. Highways have made the road sign and drain safe. Area care are due to jet clean the playpark on Friday 28 June.

Coulby Newham

27. Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO Severs attended a meeting with Parkway Centre new management team to discuss recent asb issues and a rise in shoplifting. Two banning letters have been issued to 2 youths causing issues in the centre. Neighbourhood Officer to serve these and take council enforcement action alongside this.

Marton East

28. A visit took place with Marton East councillors to look at issues on Cypress Road / A174 underpass to The Grove regarding off road bikes and drug dealing.

Environmental Enforcement

29. Middlesbrough Council Environmental Enforcement Wardens are responsible for investigating all matters of environmental crime. This includes Fly Tipping, Littering, Waste Presentation at both domestic and commercial premises. The team are also responsible for responding to enforcement of untaxed and abandoned vehicles, stray dogs and matters relating to repairing or selling vehicles on a highway.

30. In the month of April the team investigated a total of **620 service requests (10.6% decrease on March Data)**. These requests were made up of **49 requests for service (32% decrease on March Data)** relating to stray dogs, **457 requests (15% decrease on March Data)** for service for fly tipping and environmental related matters and **112 79 requests (41% increase on March data)** for service for untaxed and abandoned vehicles.

31. In the month of April the team issued a total of **51 legal notices** for a range of environmental offences. The team issued **12 fixed penalty notices** for waste related offences which included Fly Tipping Offences (**approximately £8k of fines/ fees were paid in the month of April**). The team undertook several DVLA and untaxed vehicle operations which resulted in **12 vehicles being seized**. We took 11 stray dogs to our kennel provider and returned four stray dogs back to the registered keeper. We had 3 **cases in court for fly tipping offences and have approximately 15 cases scheduled to go to court** in the coming weeks/ months for fly tipping and commercial waste related offences.

The table below provides a breakdown of activity by ward and shows a comparison against total service requests from the previous month.

Ward	Stray Dogs	Fly Tipping/ Environmental Reports	Vehicle Related Issues	Total	Previous Month	Difference From March 24
South						
Coulby Newham	0	6	10	16	14	+2
Stainton & Thornton	1	0	1	2	9	-7
Hemlington	2	20	3	25	37	-12
Marton East	2	0	2	4	5	-1
Marton West	0	1	1	2	1	+1
Nunthorpe	1	4	2	7	9	-2

East Middlesbrough Neighbourhood

Community Development

32. Our team have attended a community event at an Rainham house in Thorntree, to link in with partners and engage with vulnerable clients living at Rainham house.

33. On 16th May, a Welcome Orientation event was held at Trinity Church in North Ormesby. Around 40 people including children attended, representing local residents, asylum seekers, and refugees. The event offered advice, information and guidance on hate crime, antisocial behaviour, community development and more. Partners in attendance included MyPlace, Ethnic Minority Achievement Team, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Middlesbrough Community Learning, CAB, Public Health, and the Thirteen Employability Service.

34. North Ormesby Hub worked with Community Hub Officer Jess Christie, North Ormesby Big Local and Remaking Beamish Project to deliver a successful Middlesbrough History Event. Lisa from Remaking Beamish Project talked us through the history of Beamish and the development of the 1950's area. Residents enjoyed sharing memories from the 1950s and information they provided will contribute towards the development of a Middlesbrough based film.
35. Communities working in partnership with Thorntree Community Hub hosted a community fun day on Monday 27th May. The event was held between 1-4pm and included a host of entertainment for families including a bouncy castle, craft activities and a good range of foods for adults and children. The event was well attended and received good feedback from the community.

Criminal Activity

36. A house closure which was granted back in March following significant issues in the Jubilee Street area of North Ormesby has been extended. Cleveland Police applied for a 3-month extension to the original order, preventing the tenant from returning to the property.
37. A problematic male from Welton House was given a Criminal Behaviour Order which was granted for two years. This male's behaviour was having a detrimental effect on the community.
38. During a joint walkabout with partner agencies in Pallister Park on 06/06/24 our East locality team recognised the number plate of a vehicle which had recently been reported as stolen. Officers reported the stolen vehicle's location to Police who confirmed the vehicle was still listed as stolen and it was recovered later in the afternoon.

Begging

39. A nuisance beggar who plagued Middlesbrough shoppers and businesses has been hit with a powerful court banning order. Teesside Magistrates heard how he would knock on the doors of residential properties and car windows asking for money. His offending has been mainly in the Berwick Hills, Pallister Park and North Ormesby areas of East Middlesbrough and on Parliament Road in Newport. The 28-year-old has been offered support on numerous occasions but was issued with a Community Protection Notice (CPN) after failing to engage with any of the help offered. He was subsequently served with a Fixed Penalty Notice which he failed to pay. He was fined £250 with a £90 victim surcharge for breaching his CPN and made subject of a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO). Under the CBO he is banned from asking for money or goods from any person within the borough of Middlesbrough. He is also barred from obstructing the highway outside any business or nearby cash machine anywhere in Middlesbrough.
40. Despite the Council previously obtaining a Civil Injunction against the male who repeatedly harasses members of the public and local businesses by begging on Ormesby Road and Norfolk Place, reports were received on a daily basis that the male continued to cause a nuisance in the area. The Neighbourhood Safety team obtained sufficient evidence that the male continuously breached the terms of the Civil Injunction and as a result the male was arrested and referred back to Court.
41. A CPN breach was heard at the Magistrates Court for the well-known persistent male beggar in East Middlesbrough. The male did not attend court and they found him guilty in absence. He was fined £250 and a victim surcharge of £90, totalling £340.

42. Business welfare checks and surveys have been conducted at Norfolk Shops to provide reassurance. Local businesses and residents have been provided with information on the reporting process and what happens once an ASB report is received. Lots of positive comments were received regarding the noticeable presence of wardens since the neighbourhood model was introduced.

Off Road Bikes

43. Information obtained during proactive patrols by the Neighbourhood Safety team and CCTV resulted in two off road bikes being seized by Police in Pallister Park.



44. Proactive patrols in the East locality have resulted in a male riding an off-road bike being witnessed breaching his community protection warning and has now been served with a community protection notice. Any further breaches of this notice will result in a fixed penalty notice being served. If the fixed penalty is not paid, we can attach a criminal behaviour order as and when we receive a court date.

Lifesaving injection

45. An off duty East locality officer assisted a member of the public with a male who had taken an overdose. Having quickly conducted some basic checks for an overdose (see below) the officer injected 5ml of Naloxone whilst awaiting emergency services. The male quickly responded to the injection with his breathing and circulation improving. His support worker and accommodation provider were later contacted. All of our Neighbourhood Safety Wardens have received Naloxone training and have saved many lives in recent years.



Environmental Enforcement

46. A Fixed Penalty Notice was issued following a fly-tipping incident in the Crowland Avenue area of Netherfields. Environmental Wardens can use powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The offender was fined £300.00.

47. A further Fixed Penalty Notice was issued following the attached rubbish being dumped in Eversley Walk, Park End. This offender was also hit with a £300 fine.



Crossing The Tees Book Festival

48. The annual Crossing The Tees Book Festival, a joint venture between Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar, Hartlepool and Darlington Libraries took place in June, across library services throughout the region. The festival was funded by the Arts Council. Events include creative writing workshops and author visits. A funding bid is currently being written to secure the future of the festival for the next 3 years.

Newport Community Hub

49. 'Bring it on!' - The Hub has been booked to host summer 2024 'Bring it on!' activities. Ubuntu and Creative Minds are hosting sessions thorough-out the summer holidays to cater for the needs of the local children.

50. Gruffalo's 25th Birthday - To celebrate the Gruffalo's 25th Birthday we will be hosting celebration session at Newport Hub. It will be an interactive re-telling of The Gruffalo suitable for 2-7-year-olds.

51. Community Fun Day - Newport Hub hosted its annual Fun Day on 27th May 2024. Over 850 people attended. The event was supported by The Friends of Newport and Middlesbrough Council. The event was an excellent opportunity to showcase what the Hub has to offer.

West Neighbourhood

Longlands and Beechwood

52. Investigations have been carried out by our Neighbourhood Officer and Police around individuals setting fires and causing ASB around the Grove Hill Hub / Bishopton Road area.

A total of 19 youths have been identified from CCTV footage and the following actions have been taken:

- Neighbourhood Officer and Police have carried out joint home visits to all youths involved and spoken to parents about their behaviour.
- A total of 19 warnings have been issued to the youths involved.
- Information has been given to parents for Fire Setters Intervention Courses at Cleveland Fire Brigade. Officers carry out intervention work with those identified for fire setting.

53. Youths have also attempted to cause Criminal Damage to the CCTV Camera on Bishopton Road since enforcement action has been taken. A thermal detection camera has now been fitted to the camera, this sends an alert to the control room to make operatives aware that there is a heat source is in close proximity.

54. A Community Skip Day was arranged by Environmental Neighbourhood Wardens in the Deepdale Avenue / Thorndyke Avenue area.

55. Partners from Thirteen, West Locality Neighbourhood Officer and Community Development and Cohesion Worker engaged with residents to encourage them to bring out any waste items they may have had and dispose of them in the skip. This area has been a hotspot for fly tipping and fire setting.

Multi Agency Neighbourhood Walks

Longlands & Beechwood

56. The first locality walkabout has been carried out by West Middlesbrough Locality Team, Councillors and partner agencies in Longlands and Beechwood. Number of issues picked up and reported to the relevant teams within the council. Issues picked up included overgrown bushes, uneven pavements, damaged bin and a burnt-out vehicle. All jobs picked up are recorded and monitored to ensure completion. The team engaged with several residents on the walkabout and informed them on the multi-agency approach to improve their area.

Ayresome

57. Reports received of motorbike nuisance on the new build site on Harehills Road. The Neighbourhood Manager, local councillor and local PCSO carried out a site walkabout at the location, identified the problem area and spoke with the site manager regarding the reports of motorbike nuisance. The site manager has placed boulders along the path/field which will now help prevent access to motorbikes / quads. There are also concerns around vehicles speeding on the estate, Our Neighbourhood Officer and Police are working with the site manager and Middlesbrough Councils Transport and Infrastructure Manager to address these concerns.



58. Investigations are ongoing around Teesside Park Leisure area. Concerns have included rough sleepers around the footbridge / footpath leading into the area from Whinney Banks and ASB from a group of teenage girls. The following actions have been taken:

- Area Care have been tasked to cut back overgrown bushes to make the area safer and more open.
- Homeless Team will include this area on their early morning sweeps to engage with any rough sleepers and ensure advice and support is given.
- Police are working with their colleagues from Stockton, who also cover part of Teesside Park to identify those responsible for causing ASB, will then work with Neighbourhood Officer to take relevant action.

59. A CCTV camera has been installed on Acklam Road in the area of Whinney Banks Shops. This is due to an increase in reports of Crime, ASB and Motorbike Nuisance.

Acklam

60. Our West Locality team completed a multi-agency walkabout in the Acklam Ward. Issues that were identified included:

61. Illegal parking on Coniston Road – Neighbourhood Wardens were made aware and two cars received parking fines.



62. The team came across trade waste left out and unsecure retail bins that were overflowing.

63. Our Environmental Enforcement Officer and NSO have arranged to visit all the stores at Acklam Shops to introduce themselves and educate them regarding the do's and don'ts regarding waste disposal. Enforcement action will be taken in the future.



NAME: **Cllr Janet Thompson**

DATE: **17 July 2024**