

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON**

#### **DATE OF MEETING 27 November 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.

#### **1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES**

Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives.

#### **2. HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **TOWN – WIDE INFORMATION**

##### **Neighbourhoods**

##### **Community Safety**

- 2.1 The team have been working hard to recruit to the vacant posts within this service in order to ensure we have Neighbourhood Safety Wardens on our estates. The team is now back up to 28 the quota is 30.
- 2.2 Community Safety Service Requests (October 2024 – September 2024). Service requests received by the Neighbourhood safety officers (NSO), street wardens, and Enviro wardens combined in the period increased from 1644 in September 2024 to 2223 reports in October – an increase of 35.22% (Breakdown below).

Service Requests (NSO, Enviro & Street Wardens)									
Ward	VA1 ASB Issues	VA2 Noise, Animal, Stray dogs	VA3 PSPO	VA4 Littering / Rubbish/ Waste	VA5 Vehicle Issues	VA6 Criminal Issues	VA7 Tasking / Patrols	Total	
Acklam	2			22	4		9	37	31
Ayresome	1			17	2		7	27	-9
Berwick Hills & Pallister	20	2		42	7	2	229	302	125
Brambles & Thorntree	14	11		26	3	1	154	209	149
Central	83	8	11	61	24	3	192	382	0
Coulby Newham	2	2		16			49	69	4
Hemlington	15	4		17	6		111	153	67
Kader	2	2		3	4		7	18	1
Ladgate	3	4		7	7	1	3	25	1
Linthorpe	3	1		20	5		5	34	-12
Longlands & Beechwood	15	7		34	5		2	63	-35
Marion East	1	1		3	9		30	44	32
Marion West				4	3		27	34	17
Newport	16	3		65	20		49	153	-50
North Ormesby	5	2		16	6	1	137	167	84
Nunthorpe	2			4			37	43	26
Park	8	2		27	7	1	29	74	-17
Park End & Beckfield	14	5		33	6	3	239	300	155
Stainton & Thornton				2	1		43	46	18
Trimdon	2			1	1		19	23	-8
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1378</b>	<b>2203</b>	<b>579</b>

## Hubs and Libraries

### Central Library Refurbishment

- 2.3 Work continues on the refurbishment of Central Library. Work will start on the new stairs and light fittings in the coming month. The ceiling areas have been decorated in the Reference library, with colours changed to reflect the era the library was built.
- 2.4 As part of the social value element of the project, the contractor Aptus, with the architects Mosedale Gillat have hosted 30 students from Middlesbrough College on site. The students had the opportunity to see architectural conservation in progress with an insight into the operations on a live construction site. Further visits are planned for local school children.



## **Cinderella Pantomime**

- 2.5 The Newport Hub will be showcasing the pantomime 'Cinderella' on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at 6.00pm. The performance is by Beverly Artistes LTD. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are £1.00 each and children under one are free.



## **Give A Coat A Home**

- 2.6 This event took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> November at Newport hub. The aim was to provide warm outer wear to those who are in need. One resident provided a large bag of hats that she had knitted. Over 80 people attended the event from various communities.

## **Ukrainian Twinning Programme**

- 2.7 The service successfully applied to be part of a national Libraries Connected programme to twin with a library in Ukraine.
- 2.8 Middlesbrough were successful in their application and are now twinned with a children's library in Dnipropetrovsk. The aim of the project is to learn from and support both our services, with the potential for online events.

## **Cohesion and Resilience (Town Wide)**

- 2.9 Hate Crime Awareness Week took place between 14 and 20 October. Several activities across the town including engagement with Teesside University, school children and community groups.
- 2.10 The children were very engaged and talked to us about the reasons why people leave their own country and reasons why they would come to the UK.
- 2.11 A stall in the Hill Street Shopping Centre together with Cleveland Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Safer Communities on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner also agreed to fund 200 “Show Racism the Red Card” wristbands, which a lot of people agree to wear. We were able to have conversations with 48 different individuals.

## **Localmotion Community Voices**

- 2.12 The Neighbourhood team have taken part in the first session of Localmotion’s new Community Voices projects, together with other professionals and members of the community. What was clear from the event is that people truly care about supporting their community and building a Middlesbrough that everybody can be proud of.



- 2.13 Julie Easley wrote three poems, one of which was created by asking people one-word answers to the questions “what was the best part of today?” and “describe Middlesbrough in one word”. The poem goes like this:



### **This Town by Julie Easley**

This town is awesome and wonderful, we  
Welcome with open arms, reflect who are  
With an inspirational spirit, blended all  
The richness of our history, this town of immigrants.

This town is the people, a place we  
Can come and rejoice our roots, to remember we are  
A community who all call Boro home.  
Our kindness is remarkable, we  
look back so we can plan forward, we are  
the best place in the world. In Boro

we have something of everything, we  
are our iconic infrastructure, our strengths are  
seen in our friendliness and how we all  
grow together. In this town we are all immigrants.

### **North**

#### **Myplace**

- 2.14 Myplace have hosted four Dementia cafes welcoming Middlesbrough care home residents to our café for an afternoon tea and live music.
- 2.15 They also hosted a Halloween party for looked after children as well as our own Halloween party for our youth club members who also performed a Halloween themed concert for their families and friends.



### **Town Centre ASB**

- 2.16 The Safer Streets Officer has continued to engage with local businesses and partners in the Town Centre to investigate and resolve Anti-social behaviour.
- 2.17 Over the last month an application for a Criminal Behaviour Order was made and granted in relation to an individual responsible for persistent begging and anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre. This has been breached twice and submitted to court.

### **Street Audit**

- 2.18 Due to issues with rough sleeping, begging and other related activities, a street audit has been completed which involved talking to those that are found engaging in such behaviours. This took place during daytime and nighttime hours, to gather information and to try and understand why this happens. This will help us to have a better understanding of the issues and identify where more help and support is needed. The Audit took place over a week from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October and involved partners from across the Neighbourhood.

### **East**

#### **North Ormesby**

- 2.19 Whilst on patrol in North Ormesby, Wardens came across a very strong smell of gas. After investigating they identified a gas leak coming from a property in Derwent Street. Emergency Services and Gas Board were contacted immediately and the Wardens helped the Fire Service to put a cordon around the area. The Fire Chief stated that the main gas pipe leading to the boiler had been severely damaged which could have led to a catastrophic incident. The landlord was contacted and the property was made safe.

#### **Berwick Hills and Pallister**

- 2.20 An individual who was witnessed causing a disturbance outside of the Live Well Building was quickly identified by the Neighbourhood Team. A community protection warning was issued to the male.
- 2.21 Action was taken against a male for riding an off-road bike in an anti-social manner, information has also been shared with Thirteen and the Police regarding this incident.

- 2.22 In addition, joint work with our Neighbourhood Police teams has resulted in the seizure of three off road bikes in Berwick Hills & Pallister Park
- 2.23 Wardens have engaged with businesses and carried out an additional letter drop at Norfolk shops to encourage the reporting of incidents to support enforcement action being taken. In addition, our wardens have carried out 3 letter drops in and around the estates close to this location.



### **Park End and Beckfield**

- 2.24 The Neighbourhood Team observed a suspicious vehicle being driven in the Netherfields area. They linked in with Thirteen Housing and the Police regarding suspected drug dealing taking place. Four people were subsequently arrested for offences, including Possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply.
- 2.25 The Neighbourhood team arranged a multi-agency community meeting at Park End Community Hub to update residents following the house explosion on Kirkland Walk earlier in the year and to give them the opportunity to raise any concerns they may have.
- 2.26 Following complaints from local businesses about a young person using a bicycle lock to smash windows at Vaughan Centre shops. The Neighbourhood Team worked with partners resulting in a referral to the Youth Justice Service.

### **Brambles Farm and Thorntree**

- 2.27 Wardens have carried out school parking enforcement patrols in East Middlesbrough and during these patrols given out advice to parents whilst assisting the crossing patrol operative.
- 2.28 Proactive patrols on Bamboo Way have resulted in the arrest of 2 males who we have been reporting for suspected drug driving.
- 2.29 Our team have identified a male for a few offences including 2 Criminal Behaviour Order breaches in East Middlesbrough. In addition, the same

male was wanted for violent disorder during the recent riots and after working with colleagues, the male was arrested by Police.

- 2.30 The team have worked and supported Police with the identification of two males who have been seen breaking into cars and properties within the community.

### **Community Hubs & Libraries**

- 2.31 A community hub officer has been successful in obtaining a grant which will launch a new stay and play session within North Ormesby Hub. The group aims to support families and children.
- 2.32 On the back of a hugely successful first term and summer holiday of Kids Kabin, the Neighbourhood Development Officer has been working to secure additional grant funding for the group to support them in continuing and expanding the sessions.

### **South**

#### **Crime and ASB**

#### **Hemlington**

- 2.33 The Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO completed a letter drop around Edgeworth Court, Elmhurst Gardens and Boscombe Gardens following reports of criminal damage, fire setting and youths throwing fireworks. A youth identified by Police as being involved in an incident in this area has been issued with an acceptable behaviour contract breach letter.
- 2.34 Initial warning was given to a youth who had been identified throwing fireworks at the Viewley Shopping Centre.
- 2.35 The Neighbourhood Officer and PCSO also attended a Habinteg residents meeting to discuss any concerns regarding anti-social behaviour on their estate and wider area.
- 2.36 There have been 5 motorbike / quad seizures over the past 2 months following intelligence received from the local community.
- 2.37 Big thanks to Cleveland Fire Service and Thirteen Housing who provided 3 skips across the ward to rid the area of excess waste prior to Bonfire Night. Over 3 tonnes of waste was removed.





### **Coulby Newham**

- 2.38 2 youths were identified causing anti-social behaviour around The Holt & The Coppice area, visits were completed with PCSO and verbal warnings given.
- 2.39 The Neighbourhood Officer, Thirteen Housing, Cllr Branson and the PCSO attended an ASB drop in arranged for residents of Lingfield Ash following concerns around ASB.

### **Marton**

- 2.40 There have been issues around Marton shops, Marton Community Centre and the surrounding area with youths causing anti-social behaviour, throwing missiles, and letting off fireworks. A rapid deployment CCTV camera has been erected outside Marton shops to support the police and Local Authority to identify those responsible for the nuisance. Four youths have been identified and the PCSO has carried out home visits and initial warning letters have been issued by the Council's Neighbourhood Team.

### **Environmental Update**

- 2.41 On Earls Court Road, we seized a vehicle for being untaxed. It was parked on the grass verge and is now impounded. Tax and release fees will apply to anyone claiming the vehicle.



- 2.42 Following several complaints, we have removed illegally dumped bags and toys from the walkway between Mardale and Coverdale in Hemlington and arranged for the clearance of windfall trees and branches found obstructing the path.



## Community Hubs and Libraries

### Hemlington

- 2.43 During the Feast of Fun event, 276 Paper Angels made. Councillors Tom Mohan and Nicky Walker both attended and took part in making angels.
- 2.44 Halloween activities took place in Hemlington and Marton Community Hub & Libraries



## **West**

### **Longlands and Beechwood**

- 2.45 Multi agency work took place around Collin Avenue/Forber Road. Several complaints have been received around gang nuisance, motorbike nuisance and suspected drug dealing around the area in Saltersgill. The Neighbourhood team have worked with partners to take appropriate action including;
- Police completed a drone operation in the area, gathering evidence on a number of properties allegedly involved in the nuisance.
  - Increased patrols on the estate from local PCSO and Neighbourhood Wardens.
  - Two Thirteen properties being used by a local gang have been secured and shuttered.
- 2.46 All agencies will continue to monitor this area and take further action should any more complaints be received.
- 2.47 The Neighbourhood Team attended a drop in session at The Genesis Project, along with Thirteen Housing. This drop in runs every month and is a good opportunity for residents to speak with staff about any issues or concerns they have.
- 2.48 Whilst carrying out visits on the Saltersgill estate, our Neighbourhood Officer came across an empty property on Forber Road which had been vandalised with paint. After carrying out some checks, we now know that this is a Thirteen property which became void in August 2024. Thirteen's Void Team have been made aware and this property will be cleared of the paint as part of the voids process.





**2.49 Rear Of Thorndyke - Grove Hill.**

Work has been carried out in partnership with MBC, Thirteen Community Resilience team and Community Pay Back to clear the Thorndyke area of Grove Hill. The area is a hot spot for fly tipping and fire setting with residents asking for a gate to be put in place to combat this.

**2.50 Work clearing the space has now commenced see pictures below and we are waiting on a date for the gate which will be funded by Thirteen housing.**



**Trimdon**

**2.51** The Neighbourhood team visited Acorn Drive to speak with residents regarding incidents of ASB in the play area. After listening to resident's views, we are exploring options such as removing the roof from a piece of equipment where youths congregate and installing lighting to improve CCT images particularly during darkness hours.

**Kader**

**2.52** Our Neighbourhood Safety Wardens have been out in the Shoreswood Walk area issuing Park Smart notices on vehicles that are parking on grassed areas.

**Acklam Community Hub & Library**

**2.53** We have launched our own LEGO AWARDS. We have a very busy LEGO club on a Saturday morning, so thought it would be good to reward them for all their building. If successful, we hope to expand it to the other LEGO Clubs in the hubs.

**2.54** Steve Thompson from the Rekindle Project launched Digital Visits, a rich tapestry of Middlesbrough social history.

### **Grove Hill Community Hub and Library**

- 2.55 Linx and the Junction youth services continue to hold weekly sessions. The sessions are well attended, and the youth worker continues to build strong relationships with the young people and MBC staff.
- 2.56 Skills For People held two employment and training sessions from the community hub. The sessions were by invite only and were attended by Middlesbrough residents with a guaranteed interview with the TESCO Warehouse if the training is completed.
- 2.57 Thirteen housing are holding drop in sessions on the third Wednesday of each month. This continues to be well received by residents giving them access to their local Housing Officer.

### **Easterside Community Hub and Library**

- 2.58 Youth council sessions recommenced in September. These sessions are run by MBC children in care staff and support children who may be leaving care. The sessions take place Tuesday each week 4-6pm.