

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Culture

Theatre and Town Hall

1. The annual open-air theatre season delivered by Middlesbrough Theatre has been a smash hit once again. Performances of Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf and the Jungle Book proved to be extremely popular with Newham Grange Farm audiences.

Older theatre fans flocked to see Romeo and Juliet and The Great Gatsby in the Town Hall Courtyard.

2. Towards the end of the Summer Season, the Town Hall was once again allowed to operate at full capacity and delivered fully sold out events such as Festival of the Dead and Jimmy Carr. Other highlights from the summer season included The Jazz Supper, Classical Café and Paul Sinnahs Crypt Keepers Quiz.

The Town Hall now looks towards Autumn, which will feature some wonderful artists including Sarah Milican, Jason Manford and Paul Weller.

3. We finally opened the doors of Middlesbrough Theatre after a long hiatus in July with returning favourite Lady Boys of Bancock. The show was scheduled in 2020 for one sold out show - but due to Covid closures the date was pushed back to 2021. Restrictions surrounding social distancing were still in place at this time which meant delivering one sold out show wasn't possible. Instead the show was delivered three times. It was truly wonderful to see the theatre reopen and we have received some wonderful feedback.
4. The Autumn season at Middlesbrough Theatre is now on sale, the program is proving to be very popular with audiences. Rehearsals for The Fiesta Fawns are well underway. The show is inspired by stories of the historic Fiesta Nightclub in Norton and written by local writer David Tuffnell.

Middlesbrough Museums:

5. We have delivered two Together Festivals - outdoor festivals that bring people into the museums and delivered in partnership with the Tees Valley Museums NPO. Both were very successful and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum welcomed more than 1000 people to the park.
6. Middlesbrough Museums also partnered with the Mela to develop the Seeds of Hope exhibition. Umar Butt, the new museum community co-producer, developed a community photography exhibition in Albert Park this Summer.



Archives

7. Plans are underway to develop the archives service alongside the Dorman Museum. This will improve access to the collections of both services, expand gallery space and provide an on-site store that complies with up-to-date standards.

Stewart Park

8. Visitor numbers continue to be high with our vehicle counter tracking more than 1800 cars per day visiting the park.
9. Despite having Cleveland Show and Fairy Tales on Ice cancel, we have hosted the successful Holidays at Home event. This was a family fun fair with a beach and special guests each weekend including circus entertainers, clowns and - most popular - dinosaurs.
10. We have installed a permeant trail within the park in conjunction with the Cook Museum that has now reopened.
11. ParkRun has restarted after the Covid pandemic and despite only operating for a few weeks numbers are already exceeding those pre Covid.
12. We have installed a piece of artwork from local artist Andrew Mckeown. This is on display on the top lawn in front of the museum.

Albert Park

13. Albert Park has hosted, in conjunction with Middlesbrough Mela, a Summer of Sport. This has given families the opportunity to partake in a different sport every day over the school holidays for free.

14. The park has once again hosted the Holiday Activity Fund programme. Children who receive free school lunches have signed up for a week of activity including sport and music. A healthy lunch was also provided.
15. The park hosted this year's family Mela it was attended by well over 5000 people.
16. Work is ongoing with regards to the £100K improvement fund. This will see us bring the lake back in to action along with some much needed improvements to the Visitor Centre.
17. We have also installed a piece of artwork from local artist Andrew Mckeown, this is on display near the Park Road South/Linthorpe Road Ent.
18. As with Stewart Park a new trail is to be installed in conjunction with Dorman Museum

Newham Grange Farm –

19. The Discovery Centre is now opened with its live and historical information.
20. The community allotment is receiving a facelift will allow groups who may have difficulties in accessing growing space.
21. The farm has run a number of adult workshops, including ceramics and lino printmaking. It also number of children's drop in workshops over the holidays.
22. The farm has re-launched its party hire. This has down well, with one every weekend for now.
23. The farm has hosted two performance of Middlesbrough's outdoor theatre season. These were very well received and more than 100 people came to one of the performances



bee hive
which
hosted a school
gone



Events

24. The much-loved Orange Pip Market returned to Centre Square in July and September. Delivered with social distancing measures in place to support our ongoing local Covid resilience plan, the markets were a bit wet and damp but that didn't stop the audience members turning up in their thousands to support this well-loved local event. Orange Pip will run on Centre Square in October, with the last Pip of the year taking place in December in the Town Hall.

25. Middlesbrough Mela returned this year although in a slightly different way. The program took place over a number of days and focused on younger family audiences and culturally creative activities. The Mini Mela saw an audience of in excess of 5000 people, who come along to Albert Park on a very wet and windy Sunday afternoon in August.

26. The Mela Association who collaborate the local authority to deliver the Mela are over the moon that a smaller Mela was made possible this year following the digital Mela delivery in 2020. Other melas across the country have cancelled their events again this year, so it's wonderful to know that Middlesbrough managed to stand up and be counted. The Mela Association is now looking for new members to join the committee and friends group to help plan Middlesbrough Mela 2022.

27. The summer season has also included lots of activity involved in reviewing and approving events delivered by others on our land including, Holidays at Home, Stereo Festival and Hit the Bar Street Party. Coming up in the Autumn we have Oktoberfest and 90s party, the 10k, Race for Life and (pencilled in) Diwali.

28. Planning for Christmas events began long ago, with the date for the Middlesbrough parade and light switch on set for Sunday, November 28.

Middlesbrough Lottery

29. We have had an absolutely tremendous start to the Middlesbrough Lottery, with almost 40 good causes across the town set to benefit from the money raised. 60p from every pound ticket sale goes to good causes – and if we keep at the current level of support we are on track to raise £40,000 in the first year. I very much hope that we continue to build on this success.

Communities

Safety

30. School patrols have been taking place daily and have utilised the CCTV enforcement car. Schools where parking issues are prevalent have had enforcement patrols each morning.

31. Below you will find a break down in enforcement activity for the month of April to July 31 2021, giving you an overview of the total fines issued in this financial year to date.

32. Since the reopening of businesses we are starting to see an increase in vehicles parking in residential bays close to the town centre without displaying valid residential permits. We are also seeing an increase around main routes such as Fairbridge Street where delivery drivers for food are parking in contravention with traffic regulation orders. In the same reporting period of the last financial year April – July we issued a total of 123 penalty charge notices. In comparison to the same period in 2021 we have seen 3193 penalty charge notices issued. 37 of the 3193 penalty charge notices were issued at local schools for contraventions.

33.

PCN's Issued 2021-22					
April	May	June	July	Total	
795	972	769	657	3193	

Neighbourhood Safety Officers

34. To support the work of the wardens we have a team of seven dedicated Neighbourhood Safety Officers (NSO) who take positive action against perpetrators and adopt a problem solving approach to tackle issues that present within their ward areas. During the reporting period of 01/06/2021 – 24/07/2021, the Neighborhood Safety Officers engaged with 116 victims and carried out in excess of 190 actions within communities. This includes acceptable behaviour contracts, civil injunction applications and house closures to name a few.

Examples:

35. After receiving information about a group of youths smoking cannabis close to Newport Hub, the NSO has taken enforcement action against one of the youths involved.

36. Another youth who was also present and has been involved in carrying a weapon and implicated in vehicle theft has been placed on an Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC)

37. Four months in prison for persistent beggar

After receiving reports from local businesses in Acklam and the town centre that a persistent beggar was causing harassment, alarm and distress to customers (which was having a detrimental effect on the businesses) police and wardens attended the area and identified the beggar as Mr Stephen Crozier.

Mr Crozier had previously been issued a Civil Injunction in 2019 prohibiting him from entering certain areas of the town centre and from begging anywhere within Middlesbrough.

He has been referred to numerous partner agencies in an attempt to stop his persistent begging, however he has refused to engage with these agencies or accept help to cease his nuisance behaviour.

Mr Crozier is not homeless, he has safe and secure accommodation and is in receipt of benefits. He was sent to prison in 2020 for repeatedly breaching his injunction but upon his release he continued to beg which resulted in him being returned to court by the council on May 10 2021 when he was issued with a suspended prison sentence and told to stop begging.

He breached the terms of his injunction and suspended sentence within hours of leaving court and has continued to cause nuisance by begging throughout the period of his suspended prison sentence. This resulted in the Council returning Mr Crozier to court and following a hearing on July 22 2021 he was sentenced to four months imprisonment.



Hemlington Hearts and Minds Campaign

- 38. There was partnership engagement with residents involving MBC NSO, wardens, Thirteen housing staff, PCSO and a fire liaison officer. They spent the morning in Hemlington around Fonteyn Court/ Cass House Road area.
- 39. The area has been significantly affected by antisocial behaviour and arson incidents over a number of weeks. Staff knocked on doors and engaged with local residents and encouraged them to report incidents they are witnessing.
- 40. Contact information was provided for key staff and services and some good intelligence was obtained. A burnt out vehicle, which staff had struggled to recover due to its location, was also recovered.



41. Wardens attended Mini Mela and had some positive engagement with the public, stall holders at the event who despite the weather enjoyed the day.



42. The NSO received reports from councillors and local residents regarding overgrown land near to Northern Road in the Ayresome ward. As the land had previously been used for fly tipping and fire setting the NSO was concerned with the recent dry, warm weather, should any fires be set on the land there was a potential that the fire could spread. Contact was made with the land owner Gleeson properties who swiftly agreed to cut the grass and tidy the land.

Before



After



43. Street wardens are delighted to be supporting the National Literacy Trust's #BoroReads Look for a Book initiative. They have been busy hiding packs across Middlesbrough while on patrols.



Public Space Protection Order

44. The table below will give you an overview of all activity relating to the total number of positive interventions and Fixed Penalty Notices issued for breach of the public space protection order. Positive interventions and fixed penalty notices are issued for prohibited behaviors as seen in the picture below:

Public Space Protection Order 01/06/2021 – 24/08/2021	
Positive Interventions	PSPO Fixed Penalty Notices Issued
98	14



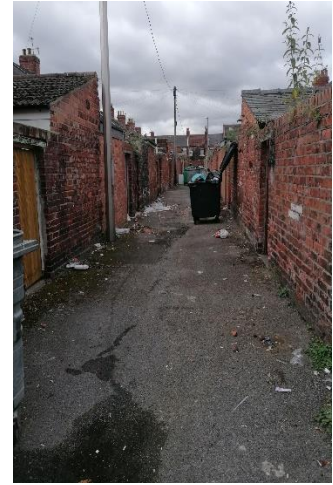
Environmental Warden Update

45. The environmental wardens continue to be extremely busy and are receiving high volumes of service requests within the borough. In March we launched a new approach to dealing with environmental crime. From this Middlesbrough Council Environmental Flying Squad was created.
46. The team now have four co-located area care operatives based within the team. We now respond to all service requests relating to environmental related issues and investigate and clear waste all in one swoop.
47. We have recently appointed two further officers to join the team so we can increase and improve our response times and positive outcomes when dealing with environmental related issues. Further to this we are also recruiting for a full time senior officer to oversee the activity of this team whilst being actively involved in leading the team whilst out in communities.
48. The team have dealt with 2017 service requests between June 1 2021 and July 31 2021. Within this total 165 of these service requests related to reports of abandoned vehicles, 1422 requests for fly tipping and 128 service requests relating to stray dogs and dog related issues such as fouling.
49. Further to the above I can confirm that the environmental flying squad have now obtained in excess of 130 pieces of evidence within fly tips right across the borough and are taking positive action. Of the 130 offences we have issued 19 fixed penalty notices within the reporting period for offences. This number will increase as investigations are concluded. These offences relate to environmental offences reported to the team between March 1 2021 and August 24 2021.

50. The team are investigating a regular hot spot for fly tipping in North Ormesby. The location is Kruegar Alley and using local authority CCTV we have captured the person responsible on the 15/06/2021 committing the offence. See attached the screenshots of the incident where a male driver of a silver Seat with registration tips a bed base, black bags, cardboard and wood and then drives away from the scene. Using our DVLA powers and links with Cleveland Police ANPR team we have established the owner and whereabouts of this motorist. This male will be receiving a visit from the team and issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice.



51. A section 34 notice – meaning you will be potentially subject to prosecution if the behaviour continues - has been sent to a shop on Parliament Road as evidence was found that they have been leaving waste all over the top end of the alley way in Finsbury Street. The flying squad have been and removed the bulky waste.



Operation Greta

51.

Untaxed cars blighting a Middlesbrough street have been seized in a town centre crackdown. The ten cars - legally required to be kept off-road - were removed from Greta Street in a joint operation by street wardens and Cleveland Police's Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Policing Team. The illegally parked vehicles have been causing access issues for other businesses along the street. To report unlicensed vehicles and other environmental issues, call the Middlesbrough Council Contact Centre on 01642 726001.

