

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 November 2021

Culture

1. Middlesbrough Council is currently leading a bid with Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership to work on the regeneration of our cultural buildings in Middlesbrough, including Middlesbrough Library. The bid is for a total of £5m and was submitted at the end of October, with an outcome expected in February 2022.
2. Cultural services has been successful in receiving £301,000 of funding from round three of Arts Council England's covid recovery fund. This funding will be used to reinforce a return to commercial stability for Middlesbrough cultural venues.
3. The main focus through October at Newham Grange Farm was preparations for half term week and Halloween – with 2,500 pumpkins sold! The farm had a traditional Halloween look, with customers taking part in pumpkin carving, Halloween crafts and 'Ghoul School' which included fun activities with our performing witches.

Parks

4. The legal agreement has now been signed with Kompan and this will see works start on four of our play areas: Stewart Park will be replacing its wheelchair swing, Albert Park will be replacing an old swing set and multi climbing frame, Pallister Park will have a new climbing frame installed and Thorntree Park will see its swings replaced with new ones.
5. The £100k investment at Albert Park continues and improvement work on the Visitor Centre begun on November 1. The centre will close for three weeks and alternative public toilets are provided at the fountain toilets. Roller-skating will still continue, with alternative ways to access our skates provided.
6. The park has purchased large games and also had graphics painted on the floor around the skating rink for the public to enjoy. Work on the lake will start soon.
7. Both Albert Park and Stewart Park have had new trails installed - Stewart Park's was in conjunction with the Cook Museum and Albert Park's was part of the Mini Mela programme.
8. Farmers markets have returned to Stewart Park, taking place on the third Sunday of each month. The December date is to be confirmed.
9. Assist Women's Network planted bulbs in its Sister Wood in Stewart Park: 20 trees have been planted to celebrate woman in Middlesbrough over the past 20 years. A new tree will be added each year.
10. ParkRun continues to gather pace with numbers exceeding 300 in both Albert Park and Stewart Park every Saturday.

Museums

11. In August Dorman Museum received its Sandford Award with commendation. Judge, Emma Canterbury, was very impressed by the learning programmes on offer at the site and felt that they were worthy of commendation by the scheme.
12. Schools have been welcomed back for educational visits at both of our museum sites and take up has been positive with 90-95% of availability booked between September and December 2021.
13. Work to create elements of the Bottled Ocean exhibition has commenced. Working with local artist Diane Watson, we have engaged local schools and community groups to explore the use of plastic, its purpose and how we use it through free creative workshops to create jellyfish and coral from plastic bottles. The work produced by participants will then be included in an immersive installation.

Black History Month / Taste of Africa

14. Middlesbrough Museums partnered up with local organization Taste of Africa to display a new exhibition for Black History Month. Irin Ajo mi is an exhibition chronicling and celebrating the experiences of black Teessiders. Irin Ajo Mi is a Yoruba word for My Journey.
15. Originally a Heritage Lottery supported project, this exhibition was developed by black young people living in the Tees Valley as an opportunity to celebrate diversity in Tees Valley. Irin Ajo Mi celebrates the journey of these amazing African and Afro Caribbean people showcasing their resilience despite challenges faced. It highlights their stories, struggles and achievements.



Curious Night at the Museum

16. Delivered in partnership with Curious Arts, Dorman Museum came alive after dark with fun curious entertainment. The evening was an engaging and exciting celebration of Middlesbrough's queer past and present with the help of a super group of LGBTQIA+ artists



Mini Pride

17. The Dorman Museum also played host to a Mini Pride celebration on Tuesday, October 26. Mini Pride was a celebration of everything that's wonderful and unique about families!

Events

18. Race for Life was held on Sunday, October 17 and was well received by all who took part.
19. Trafalgar Day parade took place on October 24, followed by Laying of the 1st Poppy on November 11 and Remembrance Day on November 14. All were moving and emotional ceremonies which gave residents the opportunity to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our futures.
20. The 90s event and Oktoberfest drew more than 5,000 people to the town centre over the weekend of the October 15. The privately run event was delivered on Centre Square.
21. October 23 saw the first Dino Day take place and it was a roarsome hit. The success has led to requests for Dino Day to become an annual event in the calendar, drawing more than 2,000 people to Teesaurus Park to enjoy the new augmented reality trail and pop up performances.
22. Sadly, due to significant health and safety concerns owing to expected wind gusts, the last outdoor Orange Pip of the season was unable to go ahead. This also meant that the Pride takeover of pip was unable to be delivered. The decision not to go ahead with an event is not a decision ever taken lightly. We continue to work with Curious Arts and the Pride Committee in developing program and opportunities for Pride events moving forward.
23. November 6 saw Middlesbrough's first Diwali event delivered in partnership with Kash Patel productions and Middlesbrough Mela Association. This event was also affected by the elements, which forced a last minute move indoors. But The Town Hall managed to shuffle

the program around in order to accommodate the event which was a great success, with almost 3,000 people enjoying the festivities. We have already begun to have conversations with the organisers about what might be possible next year.

24. The Middlesbrough 10k run took place on November 7. Starting and finishing on Centre Square, the route took in iconic sites and locations across the centre of town from Middlehaven up to Albert Park. Almost 2,000 runners took part, including our mayor and local councillors. The move to the town centre has had a positive impact with competitors who are keen to know next year's date already.
25. The annual Discover Middlesbrough festival took place in person this year with a range of talks walks, tours and activities held across the town by the many contributors to the festival.
26. Planning for Christmas continues, kicking off with the annual Middlesbrough Reindeer Parade and Light Switch On November 28.

Venues

27. Middlesbrough Town Hall and Middlesbrough Theatre are in full swing with shows and activities taking place almost every day. Highlights from October and early November include Sarah Millican, Totally Tina, Classical Café and Big Mouth Comedy Club to name but a few.
28. Reflecting on work carried out over the summer, Musinc delivered lots of holiday clubs for young people who are eligible for free school meals as part of the Government's Holiday Activities Fund. We are very pleased to hear that there will be more funding and opportunities available for similar holiday clubs at Christmas, so we'll get our planning hats back on for new and exciting programs of delivery.



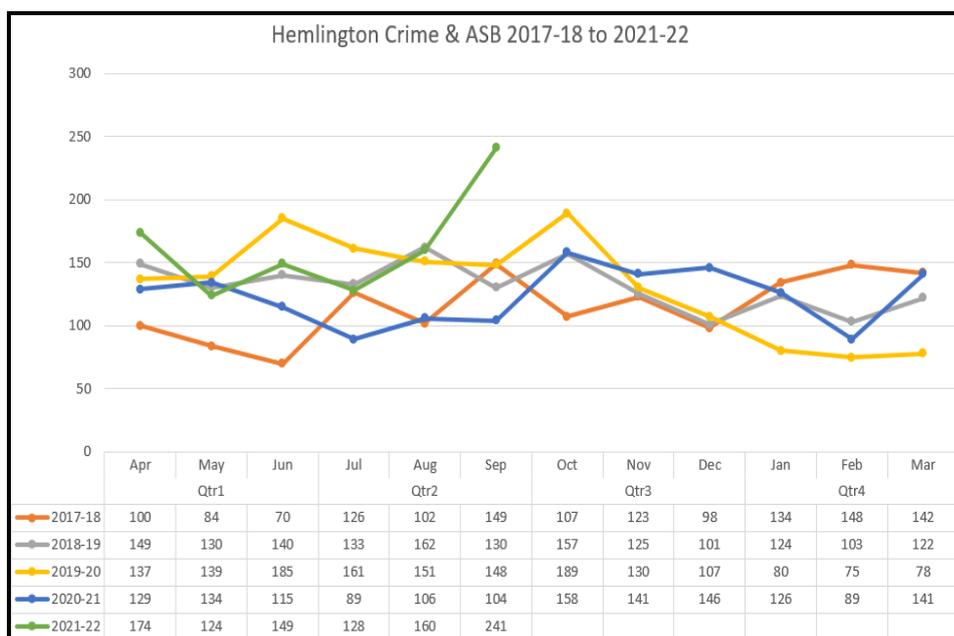


Safety and Communities

29. Middlesbrough Council in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office are set to receive a share of £23.5 million funding allocated to help women and girls feel safer on the streets.
30. Middlesbrough Council worked with local providers to develop the Middlesbrough bid and are set to receive £381,771 Safer Streets Government funding. A range of initiatives will be introduced, which will be primarily focus in Newport and Central wards.
31. Just a few elements of the successful bid are improved CCTV and lighting in key locations, campaigns led by charity Crimestoppers to educate public and challenge harassment and student safety and engagement arranged by Teesside University.
32. The Community Safety Partnership officer has continued to work closely with the cybercrimes team promoting an anti courier fraud message to community groups, care homes, third sector, hubs and libraries.
33. The Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) process is under constant review as we continue to streamline and really drill down on priority areas in order to get the most out of the meeting. Active Intelligence Mapping allows stakeholders to identify emerging trends, clusters and hotspots of crime, antisocial behaviour, fire and environmental crime.

34. Work is underway to introduce Thirteen Housing environmental data and MBC fly tipping enforcement statistics, which will enhance joint working even further.
35. In recent months, AIM has focused on a number of priority wards across the town including Hemlington Crime and ASB. Main hotspots are; Cass House Road, Viewley Centre, and the D's estate, but is dispersed throughout the ward too. Crime and anti-social behaviour combined have continued to increase significantly over the last few months;

July combined total of 128
 August combined total of 160
 September combined total of 241



36. Discussions are ongoing to see if it is viable to close Cass House Road underpass, which historically has been a magnet for anti-social behaviour.
37. A funding bid has been submitted to the OPCC via the Proceeds of Crime Act requesting £30,000 for security upgrades at the Viewley Shopping Centre. There will also be increased police and street warden patrols and the use of youth outreach such as LINX or The Junction.

Strategic Cohesion and Migration

38. During the last week of September and the month of October, the Strategic Cohesion and Migration Team has been involved in a number of exciting initiatives.
39. They have continued to work with asylum seeking mothers and babies, supporting them to access mental health services and working together with other council departments to address property issues and support using the correct reporting lines.

40. The coffee morning is greatly appreciated by the mothers, who feel it is an opportunity for them to leave their house, learn about available services, and form a community.



41. In addition, the team worked together with the Newport Locality Team during a Community Skip Day, helping to keep Newport clean and tidy.



42. Two officers within the Cohesion Team are members of the Council's BAME Network and took part in the Black History Month walk in Albert Park. One of them, Sylvia Ochuba, provided an ad-hoc speech to discuss the art on display at the Dorman Museum to celebrate Black History Month.

43. In relation to the Afghan resettlement program, Middlesbrough has welcomed a further two families who have settled in well.
44. In the last week of September, the team also held a welcome and orientation session, which is aimed to be repeated quarterly or if and when further families arrive. The orientation session is an opportunity for new arrivals to understand more about life in the UK and Middlesbrough in particular, covering such topics as health services, how to be a good neighbour, parenting in the UK, equality and diversity and more.