

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **DECISIONS**

#### **1. Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are designed to stop individuals or groups of individuals committing antisocial behaviour in a public space such as street drinking and threatening behaviour.

The Mayor has proposed to introduce a PSPO within the TS1 area. A pre-consultation exercise has been carried out to establish the views of residents and businesses which has shown strong support. Of the 451 respondents, 95% were concerned to some extent about crime and antisocial behaviour in TS1.

The next stage is to go out to formal consultation, which started on 15<sup>th</sup> July. The results of this consultation will be presented to Executive in October, when a final decision will be made.

Some of the comments we received from the pre-consultation were very supportive and included:

‘Fantastic idea, which has been a long time in coming. Good luck with this and making the town centre a safe place to live and work, once again!’

‘Middlesbrough needs to get tougher on this kind of behaviour. Middlesbrough needs to be an area where people want to come and spend money in our shops and restaurants. If our customers continue to see the streets filled with beggars and gangs, then why would they continue to visit? This sounds to me like something that could work and has been needed for a long time.’

‘Something has to be done. Don’t just sweep the problem into another area.’

### **STRATEGIC**

#### **2. Arts Council England draft strategy consultation**

This is a consultation on the Arts Council Strategy for the next ten years and it will guide future funding decisions. Consultation opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and runs for 12 weeks. The Strategy will be published next April.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publication/draft-strategy-2020-30>

#### **3. Creative People and Places Bid**

The £2m bid to the Arts Council, led by MIMA, will be crucial in ensuring Middlesbrough take the lead on increasing the cultural capacity in our communities. It will make a major contribution to the Tees Valley City of Culture Bid for 2025. If successful, we will work with local artists to develop community activities, complimenting those such as the hugely successful weekly community lunch, as well as engaging as many residents as possible in cultural activities. <http://creativepeopleplaces.org.uk/>

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **4. Events**

The following events have been delivered by the events team before the end of July:

- BBC Big Weekend - 75,000
- Orange Pip Festival - May edition 6,000 (wet weather)
- Orange Pip Market - June edition 11,000

Scrutiny of the following events delivered by other people has and will be facilitated before the end of July:

- Eid – 2,000 (cancelled due to inclement weather)
- Race for Life – 3,000
- Middlesbrough 5K – 3,000 people
- Nagar Kirtan – 1,500 people
- The Cleveland Show – 5,000 people
- Hit the Bar Street Party – 300 people
- Take That - 35,000

### **5. Radio 1 – Big Weekend**

The Big Weekend was the largest event held in Middlesbrough for many years and it raised the profile of Middlesbrough nationally through features on Radio One and many short features throughout the week on BBC television. Big acts such as Miley Cyrus, Rita Ora, Little Mix and Lewis Capaldi performed between the three different stages at Stewart Park.

People outside of the area finally saw Middlesbrough through our own eyes; a green and beautiful flourishing landscape was the backdrop used to place the event within the town. The imagery countered the usual aesthetic that the media like to pigeon hole Middlesbrough with, as a smoggy, postindustrial town.

Fifty percent of all tickets went to Middlesbrough residents and were priced at £20, giving many people in Middlesbrough their first taste of a festival featuring internationally famous acts. The event was followed the next week by a special Orange Pip on Centre Square and Take That at the Riverside.



Attracting the Big Weekend to Middlesbrough was the result of many years working with the BBC and building a trusting relationship. Rhys Hughes, BBC Head of Live Music said "I fell in love with Stewart Park. When I walked into this park in June last year and stood in front of the main stage, I thought 'this is the one'. It's a pretty place and I knew it would work."

Economic impact for the area:

- TVCA stated that £3.5m of economic impact was achieved from the event.
- Over 400 local people were employed to work at the event in various different capacities.
- Local companies benefited from many different service delivery contracts.
- Hotels, guest houses and camp sites were full to bursting for the entire weekend.
- Night time economy was positively impacted.

The BBC Radio 1 controller said that it was the best crowd he had seen at one of these events and it portrayed Middlesbrough and all its people in such positive light.



## 6. Museums

The Museums Service is onto the final part of its re-visioning project. A new vision for the service is in place and a five year forward plan has been produced. The final part is the production of a development plan which will assess the resources required to implement our vision and forward plan. The development plan will also look at potential opportunities for capital redevelopment projects at both venues.

The Museums Service has submitted the required documentation to Arts Council England for the Provisional Accreditation Review of both the Dorman Museum and Captain Cook Birthplace Museum. The scheme helps museums secure long-term public access to collections. It promotes shared standards in how museums are run, how they manage their collections and the experiences of users. The outcome will hopefully be that both museums are awarded Full Accreditation at the panel in September.

## 7. Enforcement Vehicles

The Mayor recently announced that areas troubled by constant crime and antisocial behaviour are to be targeted by two new Community Enforcement Vehicles fitted with

CCTV. A priority route has been developed to ensure the vehicles will be patrolling the town's most problematic streets to help in the fight against crime. Any evidence of antisocial behaviour gathered during patrols will either be used by the Council's Community Safety Team whilst evidence of criminal behaviour will be referred to Cleveland Police for investigation.

### **8. Fixed Penalty Notices**

In order to increase enforcement of antisocial behaviour and environmental crime, Street Wardens have now been formally trained to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping. Body worn cameras have also been introduced to assist in the evidence gathering process. The scheme has started and there is a focus currently on correcting behaviour by warning people and offering the chance to pick up litter etc. All warnings given are being recorded and monitored.

### **9. Nitrous Oxide**

The Community Safety Officer has been leading on a joint initiative with Change Grow Live to educate and deter young people from the increasing misuse of nitrous oxide, more commonly known as laughing gas. Developing an education year-long plan, the community safety lead has pulled together a multi-agency partnership to drive this forward. Recent work has focused on outreach work in the streets and communities with young people and working with Middlesbrough College students to develop their own video media campaign to educate others against the risk.

### **10. Metz Bridge Gypsy & Traveller Site**

During the month of June, the Community Safety Team has been working with residents to start building a sense of community pride on the site, initially promoting and achieving a successful bid from the Empower fund for a communal jet wash. To address issues of cleanliness the Community Safety Officer has got his hands dirty and worked with five residents to help clean the site and get rid of numerous items of rubbish. Work is ongoing to encourage resident engagement including a monthly litter pick on site.

Monthly onsite resident's surgeries have been established and residents have been consulted on what improvements they would like on the site. The Community Safety Officer has also arranged for Middlesbrough Community Learning to facilitate adult learning to increase skills and employability prospects. A total of seven residents are now regular attendees and improving their literacy skills. A three week first aid course is planned for September.

## **INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION**

### **11. Cultural Events**

In partnership with the Christopher Dresser Society, the Dorman Museum has hosted the biannual conference, celebrating the life and works of Christopher Dresser which ran from 5th-7th July. This year's theme is Dresser's connection to Middlesbrough through Linthorpe Pottery. The Dorman hosts the largest Dresser collection in the world and this event was just the start in putting the collection on the map and attracting people to see the collection from much further afield than Middlesbrough.

The Dorman Museum's summer exhibition Safari will open on 24th July. Safari is an exploration into the animals and habitats of Africa, linking to the museum's original natural sciences collection.

The Town Hall has developed a free classical ticket scheme for Middlesbrough residents was launched in April 2019, offering 250 free tickets per classical concert for 2019 (a total of 1,500 tickets), and a totally free Indian classical concert with Debashish Bhattacharya, one of the world's greatest slide guitarists.

Middlesbrough Town Hall successfully hosted the Journal/Gazette annual Culture Awards on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with Erimus, the opening of the Town Hall with Southpaw Dance and a community cast winning Best Event Tees Valley and the Arts Council Award.

We have facilitated visits for our twin town of Oberhausen in Germany. This was a cultural exchange that involved their cultural staff meeting our teams and looking at how we can work together through sharing our work. Oberhausen have a world renowned film festival and a highly prestigious theatre and there is the chance to share exhibitions and content. We are also looking at young people visiting Oberhausen on exchanges.

One great example is the libraries which hosted a visit from Diana Bengel, the Director of the Municipal Libraries in Oberhausen. Diana wanted to learn about our library service, to find out about our literacy programmes and also how we undertake staff training. To enable Diana to get a feel for the service in Middlesbrough, we visited the Central Library, North Ormesby and Myplace. Diana was fascinated by the diverse services we offer, especially the boxing ring at North Ormesby. Diana is keen to keep in touch and share good practice between ourselves in the future. As part of the delegation, Apostolos Tsalastras, Director of Finance, was also given a tour of the Central Library.



## 12. Falling on Your Feet

Supporting Communities worked in partnership with the Town Hall to offer this programme aimed at helping older people to improve their balance and wellbeing through dance. One of the aims of this was to reduce the risk and fear of falling. This funded dance programme was run by Helix Arts and participants aged 65+ had to commit to attending twice a week for eight weeks to one session at the library and one at the Town Hall. The programme was fully booked and has been so popular that, it may continue in October. This course changed



the lives of many of those that took part and is a great example of using cultural activities to improve health and wellbeing.

### 13. Social Cohesion

Stronger Communities Middlesbrough has also worked extensively with new and emerging communities. Primarily via the delivery of orientation workshops. These have given the team an opportunity not only to share what support is available but also what are the expectations are of all who live and work in Middlesbrough. This includes, how to access emergency services, how to be good neighbours (cover issues such as littering, ASB etc.) family and safeguarding as well as British laws relating to driving, domestic/sexual abuse and hate crime. These sessions are delivered with the support of volunteer translators from diverse backgrounds and ward Cllrs, PCSOs, Street Wardens, Community Safety Officers as well as Selective Licencing attend in order to develop links and to raise awareness of their roles.

### 14. Summer of Fun

This year we are promoting all our brilliant activities through our Summer of Fun campaign, including all the activities in museums, the Town Hall and Middlesbrough Theatre and the Newham Grange Farm. We have set the aim of attracting many more visitors to our venues and events by using social media extensively to share what's happening. I will be taking part by visiting events over the summer with my family to get the word out there.

### 15. Middlesbrough Book Benches Trail – July and August 2019

From 13th July to 6th September amazing book benches created by community groups and schools will be on display in a trail around Middlesbrough town centre. These marvellous artworks are inspired by Middlesbrough's favourite children's books as voted for by the town in summer 2017! There'll be themed activities and copies of the book to enjoy at each venue. Families can visit them all to be in with a chance of winning a fantastic book bundle. Participating venues are Waterstones, Town Hall, Off the Ground Coffee Shop, Dorman Museum, Hill Street Centre, Dundas Shopping Centre, Pineapple Art Gallery, MIMA as well as Central Library. We hope the trail will inspire families to enjoy reading and visit areas of the town they might not normally. This project has been funded by Arts Council England.



### 16. North Ormesby Community Hub



North Ormesby craft volunteers have been working very closely with the Community Cohesion team to create a group of mixed cultures who can work together and learn new skills from each other. Ladies from Sri Lanka have been happy to learn some paper crafts and knitting and crocheting. They have all been involved with Middlesbrough Environment City where dishes from different countries have been on the menu for lunch. The group have become great friends and are now being provided with free beauty treatments which are provided through a CMF grant. We hope to

increase the numbers of residents from different cultures and we are working hard at creating more inspiring partnership.

### 17. Newport Community Hub

Stronger Communities – funding was secured through the Stronger Communities Fund to host an International Women’s day event, coffee morning and a social outing to Beamish Museum. This method has been used to engage the women and hopefully it will be a stepping stone to engagement in centre activities. Over 70 ladies attended International Women’s Day, 40 attended the coffee morning and 42 people participated in the Beamish outing. 14 of the ladies are now attending a cake decorating course delivered by Middlesbrough College.



The Civic Awards took place in May 2019. Two of the volunteers at Newport Hub were shortlisted. Abida Nayyar and Claire Higgins. Claire won the award for Making People Happier. Claire has the ability to light up a room and she can sit and chat to anyone. The staff at the Hub support Claire in many ways and here confidence has grown immensely! Claire is inspirational, a valuable member of the team and is loved by everyone who meets her!

### 18. Grove Hill and Easterside Community Hubs

Grove Hill and Easterside Community Hub, in partnership with local community groups, have held community litter picks throughout the year. These community action days help promote as sense of wellbeing and pride in the area whilst building strong relationships with local resident and partners. They are well attended by the local residents, partners and local councillors



Easterside Community Hub along with residents and local Rotary Club Members (Active Easterside) have been working towards getting Easterside residents more active and to help them lead a healthier life style. Along with this work unused allotment space on the estate has been made available to residents. This has proved very popular in the area and is a work in progress. Local families and church groups, with the help of the Community Hub and Active Easterside, plan to revamp the area making it a safe space for the families to enjoy gardening and growing their own produce. Mayor Andy Preston attended the project launch event and praised the work of the partnership.