

REPORT TO COUNCIL BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM.

14 DECEMBER 2017

I have had a busy and interesting time in the last 3 months since taking over as Interim Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism. I have also been surprised at the range of services this portfolio covers. I would like to thank all the Officers for their help and support during a challenging period for me.

STADIUM

After so many years of uncertainty I am delighted to be able to report that the project has finally commenced. The partner agreements with the NHS, YAC and York High School have been completed.

All of the contracts for the Community Stadium were signed by the different parties on 16th November and we have also received our first capital receipt. The contractors, Buckingham's, moved on to the site the following week. The site manager is now based on site with fencing being erected and site cabins installed. They will spend time before Christmas clearing the site with construction starting in the first full week in the New Year. Site completion is set for April 2019 with the facilities operational by Summer 2019.

This means that Energise and Yearsley pool have now transferred to GLL but we will continue to work with them to ensure that residents can enjoy good quality, competitively priced leisure facilities.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and tenacity of Officers who have finally delivered the stadium, when at times it must have seemed to be an impossible task. I would also like to recognise the hard work of Cllr Ayre over many years. My name might currently be on the Press Releases but I can claim little credit.

LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Members will be aware that in 2019 we are due to enter into a new contract for library services and we are currently consulting residents and library users as to how they see the future of the libraries. There is an online survey available and a series of stakeholder's engagement meetings are being held between before the closing date of 14th February 2018.

ROSE THEATRE

We have secured the Rose Theatre for York. As Europe's first ever full-scale working replica of a traditional Shakespearean Theatre this will attract up to 100,000 people over ten weeks from June to September next year. This will be an amazing theatre experience and will be a significant addition to York's visitor attractions. It will create a lasting legacy in terms of national and international publicity and recognition of York as a cultural destination. It will also provide opportunities for schools to benefit educationally with 20,000 students expected to attend. It will also benefit residents and will be affordable. It is estimated that the theatre will create an additional spend in York's economy close to £7m, as well as additional employment.

CULTURAL AWARDS

I attended the Cultural Awards at the Minster recently. This was a celebration of all the amazing talent that we have in this City and proved to be an inspirational evening.

ALLOTMENTS

My first task as Executive Member was to consider the future of our allotments. Officers had been consulting users of this important and popular service and recommended setting up a charitable trust. I was pleased to approve the plans which will enable allotment users to manage and run the service themselves.

BURNHOLME

I attended a "steel signing ceremony" at Burnholme community hub along with children from St Aeldreds and Hempland Primary Schools. Building works are progressing well with the new building rising quickly from the ground. The £4m council investment forms part of a wider, public and private sector £30m commitment to a new health and wellbeing campus. Once complete, the people of York will be able to enjoy the new library and community facilities, a new care home, a health hub, refurbished sports facilities and new family housing. The children were delighted to mark the progress being made on these new facilities in their neighbourhood.

NEW PITCHES AT THE ASKHAM SITE

Participation in sport and active leisure is vitally important for young people, helping them get into the activity habit and preventing obesity. I am therefore pleased to be promoting a scheme to the Executive on 7th December to deliver nine new football pitches on land off the Tadcaster Road. This will be delivered in partnership with the Bishopthorpe White

Rose Football Club. Funding will come from a variety of sources and together we will be able to address a shortage of outdoor play space in this area.

YORWELLBEING SERVICE This service supports and delivers a huge range of activities across the City.

Sport Clubs and Groups:

11 Grants have been awarded totalling £6,170.

8 coach education courses delivered with 108 participants covering 13 different sports.

1489 hours (approximate) of sport and physical activity usage between April – October 2017 at Burnholme Community Hub.

7 x weekly Boccia Sessions in provided in community venues supporting 46 people. 15 attended new monthly walk as part of Walking for Health sessions at Foxwood Community Centre.

Sports Directory:

We have just updated the city's sports directory with 115 different clubs listed within it. There is an online version and we have 5,000 copies going to schools, libraries and community buildings.

Events:

These include staff benefits day at West Offices and Hazel Court; open days, with mini health checks, at the 50+ Festival, One Planet York, and St Barnabas; 70 took part in the Acomb Family Triathlon and 60 in the Acomb Fun Run; 57 people took part in 2 Boccia Tournaments run by the Libraries and Archive Service; 90 people attended across 3 disability sport open days.

Businesses:

316 mini-health checks delivered across 12 SME businesses (84 of whom have gone on to complete an online health check).

Schools:

25 primary schools worked with on the Jack Archer Award (Walk to School Week October 2017).

7 schools worked with on Healthy lunch box and Daily Mile initiative.

This aims to help children get fit by running or jogging for 15 minutes a day in school or nursery. It is inclusive, every child and class teachers take part and it is not competitive. It is free of charge and doesn't cost the school anything other than the 15 minutes out of the day. Children

are encouraged to run, walk or jog in a 15 minute turnaround from leaving the classroom to return. They do not have to complete a mile – it is just about being out and physically active. We are currently working with 6 primary schools to implement this initiative and planning an event to showcase its successes to other schools in 2018.

Men's Health Programme with York City Knights:

The YorWellbeing service invited residents to take part in the Men's Health programme with a range of activities and sessions to help them to become more active and live healthier lives. The 10 week course, which was delivered in partnership with York City Knights, took place at York St John University sports park over the autumn.

TRADING STANDARDS

Members will be aware that we host The National Trading Standards Regional Investigations & eCrime teams (previously called Scambusters) and the team have brought a number of high profile prosecutions against 'scammers' targeting consumers across the country – including York residents. Some of the cases are subject to reporting restrictions, but a couple of examples of cases we can report on include...

- A mother and son who ran a company that fraudulently serviced Dyson vacuums were sentenced for a total of ten years for conspiracy to defraud. They were also disqualified from being company directors for six and eight years respectively. They defrauded customers by falsely claiming to represent Dyson and then conducting unnecessary servicing on their Dyson vacuum cleaners. In some cases, they damaged the vacuum cleaners and voided customers' Dyson warranties. Staff also used pressure-sales tactics to persuade them to buy another brand of vacuum cleaner. The new industrial cleaners were often too heavy for the customers to whom they were sold.
- The team continues to use the Proceeds of Crime Act to recover the assets illegally obtained from scams wherever possible. In one case, making rare use of powers to deal with absconders, a judge ruled that a man alleged to have defrauded customers in the course of selling kitchens had 'a criminal lifestyle' and benefited from his 'criminal conduct' to the tune of £2,357,761. This is in addition to the awards made against the defendants who did attend trial and were convicted of various offences in connection with the supply of misdescribed and poor quality kitchens.

The Trading Standards service continues to support local businesses through a variety of initiatives including providing advice on compliance with the law. We have 'Primary Authority' partnerships with a number of growing York businesses which gives them greater involvement in their Regulation and prevents duplication of effort by Regulators. We are developing a number of other services including an Alternative Dispute Resolution process to help traders resolve disputes with consumers. We also have taken cases against local traders. This includes, a business making false claims in the course of selling double glazing and a company who sold a dangerous/unroadworthy van. We have carried out a number of successful visits to premises thought to be selling cheap and illicit tobacco with the help of specially trained 'sniffer dogs' to find concealed consignments.

We continue to make attempted 'test purchases' with the help of 15 and 16 year volunteers at businesses suspected of illegally selling age restricted products such as alcohol, cigarettes and knives following complaints or intelligence that illegal sales may be occurring.

COLD CALLING ZONES

I approved a new initiative to roll out new Cold Calling Controlled Zones in the City. These are zones in which residents collectively agree not to deal with cold callers and are highly effective at reducing the number of cold callers and reducing the fear of doorstep crime. Officers are working on new materials that Ward members can use via Ward Committees to support this popular initiative.

REGISTRARS.

There was a successful capital bid to modernise the Registrars office this year as the reception and some of the current rooms in use are not fit for purpose. The works are due to start on 8th January and be completed by early March. During the closure West Offices will be the official location of the Register Office. All births and deaths will be registered there along with Statutory Weddings. All non-statutory weddings requested by couples in council premises will be undertaken in the Mansion House and, where not available, Bedern Hall.

The improvements will allow us to provide a first class service to people who are going through the best and the worst times of their life.

VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY.

On 20th November the new volunteering strategy was launched. Entitled "People helping People" it has been drawn up by a partnership across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and sees

York join the international Cities of Service network. York has a huge number of volunteers across a wide range of activities but it is hoped that this strategy will pull together all the different strands to focus more deliberately on local priorities and make the volunteering network even stronger.

Cllr Ann Reid

Interim Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism