

Statement by the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Health

13 December 2011

Asset Transfer

The Cabinet has considered a progress report on the exploratory work relating to the transfer of the Hambleton Forum. This is seen very much as partnership project between the Forum User Group (FUG) and HDC. The next step is for FUG to complete its business plan, which is expected to be presented to the Cabinet early in the New Year.

Olympic Torch Relay

As announced in the press the Olympic Torch Relay will visit Thirsk, Northallerton and Bedale on Wednesday 20 June 2012 before heading off into Richmondshire. Officers from HDC are leading a multi agency organisation committee covering both Hambleton and Richmondshire District Councils. Confidentiality is needed for both security and commercial business reasons relating to the exact route and times, but plans are been drawn up to involve Schools, Sports Club and general public in events along the route on the day. Officers have already secured strong commitments from both the RAF and the Army to get involved. There are eight thousand torch bearers nationally with six thousand of these having been nominated by the Olympic Sponsors such as Coca Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung. The remaining two thousand came from a public vote (now closed), the announcement of who is running and where they will be is to be made in February. Further information will be provided to members once they have been agreed with the organising committee.

Disabled pool hoist at Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre

I am pleased to inform the Council that we were able to respond positively to a request which I received from a member of the public who needed support for his severely disabled son. A specialised hoist was provided using external funding.

Yorkshire and Humberside Local Government “Making a Difference” Awards

HDC and Richmondshire District Council were jointly nominated for the 2011 Yorkshire and Humberside Local Government “making a difference” awards. The nomination demonstrated how innovative marketing has led to the sixth highest participation rates in physical activity nationally for Hambleton and the first for Richmondshire.

Rookie Lifeguards

Rookie Lifeguards at Bedale Leisure Centre are testing their skills by entering Northern Region competitions on a regular basis. This provides new opportunities for young people as well as improving Life guarding standards.

Adidas Terrex Coast to Coast Challenge

Last summer we were involved with hosting a stop over at Hambleton Leisure Centre for the Coast to Coast Challenge event featuring Olympic Rower James Cracknell. Essentially this challenge event started in Whitehaven, Cumbria on the west coast and

teams competed over four days to run, cycle, kayak and swim a course to Robin Hoods Bay on the east coast. The event was televised and is currently being shown on Channel 4.

Hambleton Sports Awards

I recently hosted the Hambleton Sports Awards, where the Council celebrates and recognises the work of volunteers who give up their time to improve sport in the District. The award ceremony was well attended with over 130 members of the public, who were entertained by the Olympic swimmer Chris Cook.

Twenty five individuals and teams were nominated by the Public and there were winners in nine categories. For full details go www.hambleton.gov.uk

Licensing

The department is going through processes to try to standardise systems between HDC and RDC. HDC's Licensing Committee has recently dealt with the Aspire issue at Thirsk, who following a number of hearings have voluntarily surrendered their licence. In addition there have been a number of hearings in connection Taxi drivers leading to one written warning and one licence being revoked.

Pest Control

Over eight hundred service requests were received in quarter two more than half related to issues with wasps.

Tendering process has started for out sourcing the provision of rodent treatment inside domestic premises to date no response has been received.

A procurement exercise has now been undertaken for the provision of baits and poisons, additional discounts have now been provided, and we have now negotiated 25% off list prices for purchases.

Customer survey has been carried out, the results were excellent, 96% of customers who responded were satisfied with the way in which requests were dealt with, seventy three comments received including praise for staff and prompt customer service, additional comments were made about costs/charges. Further work is underway analysing the results.

Environmental Health

Residential

The team have dealt with over four hundred service requests in quarter two leading to an increase in the need for out of hours working. During this period they have dealt with

- Aspire, Thirsk
- Noise assessment of an outdoor marquee at the Fox and Hounds, Bullamoor, Northallerton
- Continued monitoring of Autograss, Thornborough
- Use of marquee for events at The Fox and Hounds, Bullamoor, Northallerton.

A customer satisfaction survey has been carried out for the teams work on domestic noise, over 93% of the respondents were satisfied with the survey, further work is been undertaken to analysis the results.

Benchmarking has been carried out for both HDC and RDC Councils contaminated land procedures.

Several investigations over the last quarter have required significant amount of officers time.

- Statutory noise nuisance from recycling bins in Galtres Centre Car Park
- Food factory noise following changes to planning permission, acoustic scheme had not been submitted before work carried out. Solution involved replacement of equipment, attenuation measures to existing equipment with a five metre wall been built.
- Investigation of waste spread on land. Deregulation has lead to an increase in the type and amount of waste that can be spread onto land. There is an issue with unrealistic expectation from residents over the action Council can take in response to smells with some processes being permitted and regulated by other agencies ie the Environmental Agency.

Commercial

Food Hygiene rating scheme went live on the 5th September 2011, significant work was required leading up to the launch and continues with the maintenance of the scheme. Food Hygiene inspections have increased the number of inspections and completed seventy five of the total in the last quarter.

The team have had to deal with several E.coli notifications over the last quarter. The team have also been involved with the launch of the Flexible Warrants and have continued to participate in the annual Crucial Crew event.

Councillor Peter Wilkinson
Cabinet Member for Leisure and Health