

**Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Health**

**24 July 2012**

**Olympic Torch Relay**

The Olympic Torch Relay took place on Wednesday 22 June and was organised by Leisure Services in Hambleton for both Hambleton and Richmond District Council, but saw significant partnership working with external partners including the Police and North Yorkshire County Council.

An estimated 71,000 people saw the Torch Relay:-

- Thirsk 16,000
- Northallerton 20,000
- Bedale 7,000
- Aysgarth 3,000
- Leyburn 3,000
- Richmond 22,000

Crowd behaviours was impeccable across both Districts. There were thirty eight Torchbearers in total, of which five were residents (there an estimated ten other Hambleton residents who were Torchbears in other parts of the country).

Schools were well represented and some 220 people volunteers to help marshall the event.

The project came in on budget and a Civic Reception is planned to honour the resident Torchbearers and thank volunteers.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate David Goodwin and his Team for organising such a successful across the two Districts.

**Leisure Centre Usage and Income**

The figures below cover April and May 2012:-

Income

Leisure Centre income overall is 3% higher than the same period last year. However, this is also 1% below our 2012/13 target.

Usage

Leisure Centre usage is 6% higher than the same period last year. The next Leisure and Heath Board will examine the financial information in more detail.

**Councillor Peter R Wilkinson**  
Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health