

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

17 September 2013

Tour de France update

We are launching a 'Get Hambleton Cycling' campaign in early September to coincide with the 300 day count down to the start of the Grand Depart. The campaign will be used to promote cycling in the district and will include a series of events / initiatives / promotions including at least Sky Rides (mass participation events as part of a national initiative), town centre cycle challenges, spinning events etc. The community will be able to access up to date information on the website and through social networking sites. A brochure to promote the campaign will be available shortly.

Multi-Sport Clubs

Joe, our Leisure and Health Apprentice, in the 8 months he has been in post, has made a significant impact in increasing the number of disabled people participating in sport. In May he secured funding to pilot a Multi-Sport Club in Northallerton which ran for 8 weeks, and following the positive feedback from participants is now going to continue. Joe has now also secured funding to replicate this project in Easingwold. On 22 August he facilitated a Sports Open Day at Mencap in Northallerton that attracted over 60 participants. And in October Joe is planning to hold an Ability Day that will offer a host of taster sessions in a range of physical activities for disabled people.

Hambleton Sports Awards

The Hambleton Sports Awards are taking place again this year on 3 October 2013. This is our opportunity to recognise sporting talent from across the district and celebrate success. Our guest speaker this year is Stephen Miller, Paralympian Athlete winning three Gold medals consecutively at Atlanta, Sydney and Athens.

Thirsk and Sowerby Sports Village

The Council has appointed Glenrate to undertake the phase 1 feasibility work that will provide a blue print for developing 9.745 hectares of land for sport and recreation purposes as part of the Sowerby Gateway development. A draft plan will be available late October 2013.

Leisure Centre Capital Projects

Preparations are underway to begin the £628,000 capital investment into Leisure Centre Improvements Schemes. The timeframes for the project works are as follows:

- Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre: redevelopment of poolside changing space - 2nd-22nd December 2013
- Stokesley Leisure Centre: conversion of squash court to a spinning/fitness studio – 25 October - 18 November 2013; redevelopment of changing spaces and replacement of pool filters – 2 - 22 December 2013
- Bedale Leisure Centre: redevelopment of changing spaces and replacement of pool filters – 3 -14 March 2014; outdoor pitch Resurface – dates to be confirmed.

Big Weekend

The Leisure Centres are planning their annual Open Weekend, this year titled the 'Big Weekend' which runs on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 October and will include a range of promotions to encourage participation and increase membership.

Quest

Hambleton's Leisure Centres have been recognised for their quality of service by Sport England's Quality Scheme – Quest. Stokesley and Bedale Leisure Centres were assessed earlier this year achieving Quest's 'Good' Standard and more recently Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre have been assessed and their provisional rating is 'Excellent' subject to confirmation. Hambleton Leisure Centre will be assessed later this year.

Communications

The Communications Team is working on a range of promotional material including the Building Business Awards, the Leisure Centre's Big Weekend, Winter Weather 2013 campaign and Stay in Local Housing. As well as continuing to produce Council Talk, Insight and the Parish Update to help staff, Members and Parish Councils communicate with each other.

Councillor Mrs Shirley Shepherd

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health