

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure**

**17 September 2019**

### **UCI World Road Championships**

With just a week, or so, to go before Northallerton's biggest ever sporting event, staff are working tirelessly to ensure that the race runs safely and that spectators have a wonderful experience.

A VIP reception is being hosted by Councillor Robson on the upper floor of the Town Hall between 11:30am and 3:00pm, which all Members have been invited to. The Northallerton BID and Northallerton Town Council are holding a community event to the north of the Town Hall from 8:30am prior to the Men's Elite Time Trial, which starts at 1:10pm – visitors will be treated to a range of music, arts and entertainments as well as food outlets and stalls. We are expecting all town schools to bring their pupils to watch the race and all are being provided with Hambleton District Council flags to wave off the riders. The businesses have really embraced this event, decorating their windows, running themed promotions and adopting one of the countries from those that are competing.

Traffic operations, road closures and car parking provision are all being carefully managed, with additional car parking being provided at the Allertonshire School site, Stone Cross and Northallerton Football Club to off-set displacement from the Applegarth and High Street. There is a series of road closures in place (visit our website for details) with the Council working closely with North Yorkshire County Council and North Yorkshire Police to ensure that closures are kept to a minimum and appropriate diversions are put in place. Information has been sent, and visits made, to businesses in Northallerton as well as along the route through to Bedale and to 11,500 residential properties.

For those that cannot make the Wednesday, the Women's Elite Road Race and the Men's Elite Road Race will both pass through West Tanfield on the Saturday and Sunday.

### **Festival of Fitness**

There was a great take-up with Zest leisure memberships in July as part of the Summer Festival of Fitness campaign with almost 300 people joining one of their local leisure centres, exceeding the sales targets that had been set. The full Summer fitness line-up has also included successful gym challenges, group fitness Bingo and 7 day guest passes in August.

### **ZEST Mobile App**

Launched as part of the Summer Festival, leisure centre users now have fitness information available at their fingertips 24/7. The Zest leisure app is free and over 950 users have downloaded it already. The app will allow customers to make activity bookings, take out memberships, refer friends and access information on our services, all available at a push of a button. The app will also help improve communications with our members allowing us to send notifications to keep them up to date.

### **Leisure Centre Quest Success**

To follow up on the recent assessments at our other centres, Thirsk & Sowerby leisure centre has now been rated 'excellent' by the national quality scheme Quest at a recent assessment. The leisure industry equivalent of Ofsted, Quest includes a rigorous 2 day inspection, as well as a range of mystery visits and calls. This now means that all Hambleton's leisure centres are rated as Excellent.

Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune  
Portfolio Holder for Leisure