

### **UCI World Road Championships**

On 25 September the biggest sporting event ever to be held in Northallerton took place when the UCI Road World Championship's Men's Elite Time Trial started on the High Street. Thousands of people lined the route, with every primary school in Northallerton, Romanby and Brompton coming down to watch the spectacle, as the riders set off on the 54 km race to Harrogate. Councillor Robson hosted a VIP reception for 100 people at the Town Hall which included the family of Great Ayton rider Harry Tanfield who had won a bronze medal the previous Sunday as part of the GB Team Time Trial Mixed Relay. The rain held off and the event was a huge success with Dennis Rohan from Australia taking the gold medal. Alex Dowsett from Great Britain came a respectable 5<sup>th</sup>.

On the following Saturday and Sunday the Women's Elite Road Race and the Men's Elite Road Race sped through West Tanfield. Unfortunately the weather on Sunday was not so kind with atrocious conditions challenging even the most experienced riders.

### **Making a Difference Grants**

On 14 November the 2020 Making a Difference Grants programme was launched. £125,000 has once again been made available to community groups who are looking to deliver projects that contribute to the Council's own priorities. Ward Members will attend decision making panels in the New Year to allocate £25,000 per sub-area with the final approval made by Cabinet in March 2020.

### **Sowerby Sports Village**

18 allotment plots have now been transferred to Sowerby Parish Council in the form of a 20 year lease. This sees the first part of the Sowerby Sports Village site open for informal recreation. Further work is now underway to secure funding to develop the rest of the site for formal sport including football and rugby.

### **North Northallerton Sports Village**

We have recently been successful with our Expression of Interest to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for funding for the North Northallerton sports village and have been invited to submit a bid by late February. The scheme includes the upgrading of existing pathways and creation of new ones, a planting scheme to increase biodiversity and the development of allotments, similar to the scheme at Sowerby.

### **Excellent Pool Water at Bedale**

Bedale Leisure Centre has recently been recognised for the quality of its pool water by the national Swim Teachers Association. Following a 1 day assessment, the centre achieved an 'Excellent' rating in all areas, including water treatment and bather hygiene. In the coming 12 months all centres will work towards this performance standard.

### **BigWeekend Success**

The Big Weekend promotion at the four leisure centres saw free gym trials and guided tours of the facilities, as well as discounts on gym, swim and junior memberships for one weekend only with 300 people joining one of their local leisure centres - the most memberships ever sold during a 'Big Weekend' promotion.

### **Stokesley Leisure Centre Gym**

Work is nearly complete with the refurb of the new Zest health & fitness facilities at Stokesley. The improvements include a state-of-the-art gym with installation of equipment from leading manufacturer Technogym and a fully integrated personal health and fitness system for everyday use via the 'mywellness' platform. The gym and the cycling studio will be fully up and running in time for the New Year rush!

### **Take That Step - Adult Weight Management Scheme**

Our Take That Step weight management scheme, commissioned through Public Health, is once again achieving great success in 2019. So far 350 clients have completed the 12 week programme, with 70% of them achieving the 5% weight loss target (as well as making significant improvements to their physical and mental well-being). Up to the end of October, 110 of these clients reached the 24 week milestone with virtually all of them sustaining their 5% weight loss over this time. If you know of anyone who is interested in losing weight ask them to call one of our centres.

Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune  
Portfolio Holder for Leisure