

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure

15 December 2020

Northallerton Sports Village

As many of you may know the Council has secured half a million pounds from the European Regional Development Fund towards the develop of the first phase of the Northallerton Sports Village (we did something similar with the Sowerby scheme a couple of years back). Detailed designs are currently being drawn up with works anticipated to start in Summer 2021. This will include the enhancement and creation of pathways and trails, significant landscape works and woodland management, allotments and car park.

Sowerby Sports Village

Still on sports villages, the Sowerby Sports Village has been highly commended at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Social Impact Awards Grand Final in November. A great accolade for a facility we opened at the start of the Covid outbreak, which has been massively popular with residents, and which we continue to develop.

Quest Excellence Attainment

In November, Northallerton Leisure Centre and Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre went through their 'Covid-themed' Quest assessment and successfully maintained their excellent ratings. The assessor was extremely impressed with the safety measures that were in place at both centres and identified Hambleton as a national exemplar in Covid safety. This was further borne out by the 1200 responses to post original lockdown surveys across all centres that identified **99%** of customers felt either safe or very safe with the protections in place.

Leisure Centre Improvements

At Stokesley the sports hall and activity room developments in partnership with the Arete Academy is due for completion this month, following the gym and reception works, and the centre has 'gone live' with its underwater detection camera system. At the Easingwold school site the new 3g pitch and sports hall, which the Council allocated £670,000 towards from section 106 funds, are both up and running. And design works are in progress for the improvements at Bedale Leisure centre.

Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre Developments

In November planning approval was granted for the project and cost certainty has also now been completed. The refurbishment works will begin on site on the 25 January 2021. The scheme will require full closure of the centre with the intention to reopen in late August. Regular updates will be brought to ensure Members are kept up to date with progress, with the website being used to keep customers informed.

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Portfolio Holder for Leisure