

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

**23 February 2021**

### **Making a Different Grant Panels**

You may be aware that the Making a Difference Grant Panels are scheduled for week commencing 1 March 2021 when all the applications will be considered, with recommendations being made to Cabinet in April. Over 70 applications have been received.

### **Hambleton Heroes**

On a similar community theme, we have had a very positive response to the Hambleton Heroes initiative which has been launched to recognise the amazing acts of kindness and community support that have made such a difference to our residents during 2020. The deadline for nominations is 1 March.

### **Sports Villages**

Detailed designs are being prepared for the proposed land works at the Northallerton site, with the aim of a late Summer start. The next cornerstone of the Sowerby project will be the 3g pitch, and we are working on a half million pound bid to the Football Foundation for this.

### **Crematorium**

Leisure and Communities is to take on responsibility for the operation of the Crematorium when it is opened later this year. The advert for the key post of Crematorium Manager has just closed with interviews due shortly.

### **Leisure Centre Improvements**

At Stokesley the sports hall and activity room developments, undertaken in partnership with the Arete Academy, are now complete and will open when lockdown ends. The focus on improvements now shifts to a number of capital maintenance schemes across the leisure centres, as well as the planning of the Bedale Leisure Centre works and the Thirsk project.

### **Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre Developments**

At Thirsk the main contractor started on site on 1 February 2021, with the building and car park now handed over. The works will take 30 weeks, reopening in September. Regular updates will be brought to ensure Members are kept up to date, with a dedicated area on our website informing everyone of progress.

**Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune**  
**Portfolio Holder for Leisure**