

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure

12 December 2017

Sports Awards

This year's Sports Awards were a resounding success after relocating to The Forum. This enabled full sports teams to attend and resulted in an overall attendance of over 250 people. 8 awards were handed out on the night by Lawrence Whitley OBE from Northallerton who won a Paralympic gold medal in rowing in Rio 2016.

Adult Weight Management Contract (Take That Step)

We have been awarded the contract from NYCC Public Health to operate the Adult Weight Management Service across Hambleton. This is a 5 year (+2) contract. Whilst the contract could be worth the best part of £½million to us, it isn't in itself particularly profitable but what it does is put us in a good position to capitalise on health improvement opportunities and funds. There was significant competition for the various contracts across North Yorkshire with some district councils not winning the contracts in their areas.

Northallerton Leisure Centre Health & Fitness Project

As you will know Northallerton Leisure Centre opened its doors yesterday following its major refurbishment. Hopefully you will all have had the opportunity to take a VIP tour of the new facilities but if you haven't and you would like to please contact Steven Lister. That will give you a chance to see the brilliant new gym, toning studio, changing rooms, sports hall and poolside. It's absolutely wonderful, with the new studios upstairs due to be finished late January.

QUEST Awards

Leisure centres have had their latest rounds of QUEST inspections (OFSTED for leisure centres!). All scored 'Excellent' with Health & Safety and ultimately the overall grading for Bedale, Northallerton and Thirsk was 'Excellent' too, with Stokesley achieving a 'Very Good'.

Sowerby Sports Village

Cabinet recently approved plans to take the Sowerby Sports Village project to the next stage. Phase 1 of its development will see the former landfill site remediated and brought back into use for informal sport and recreation including the development of a 1km fitness trail, community allotments and landscaping. If a grant of £643,000 is secured from the European Regional Development Fund next spring the work could start as early as May 2018.

Tour de Yorkshire 2018

This year for the first time the race will be over four days from Thursday 3 May to Sunday 6 May, with the "Hambleton" day being Saturday 5 May, of the Bank Holiday weekend, when they will race from Richmond to Scarborough. They will come into Hambleton from Leyburn on the A684 – into Bedale and then along to Leeming Bar, on to Northallerton past the station and along South Parade and right at the roundabout onto Thirsk Rd. From here the race will follow the 2016 route into Thirsk Market Place, along Finkle St (against the one-way system) and then out along the A170 and up Sutton Bank and into Ryedale. They are likely to be with us between 1.00pm and 2.30pm.

Bedale Artwork

Following extensive community consultation a public art installation has just been commissioned for Bedale, with funds coming from developers' contributions and the Arts Council. A herd of deer will be manufactured from corten steel and installed on the grass verge next to the new relief road roundabout as you head into Bedale. The works are due to be installed in Spring 2018.

Community Safety

The first Community Safety Working Group meeting was held on 22 September. The purpose of the group is to keep Members apprised of developments within the service areas managed in conjunction with the Safer Hambleton Hub (Community Safety, CCTV and the Prevent Duty). One of the first actions from the group was to deliver a Prevent training session for members which was held yesterday. The Hub is currently reviewing responses to the Stokesley Public Space Protection Order consultation that will inform a multi-agency action plan. We have also been a key partner in the recent difficult situation at Northallerton School, that I'm sure you are all aware of.

Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune
Portfolio Holder for Leisure