

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

### **Stokesley Leisure Centre New Gym**

Phase one of a £700,000 improvement programme for Stokesley Leisure Centre was completed in December. The state-of-the-art gym with digital cardiovascular and resistance equipment from leading manufacturer Technogym (the same as at Northallerton Leisure Centre) reopened its doors on Friday 20 December after a short closure whilst the improvements were made. The cycling studio also took delivery of 20 new Technogym group cycling bikes. The reaction from customers to the improvements has been fantastic. Improvements to the dryside changing rooms and reception area are also programmed and we are working with the school in looking to obtain funding for sports hall improvements.

### **Incident at Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre**

A customer of Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre tragically died after falling ill at the centre on 15 January 2020. Leisure centre staff provided immediate emergency care before the customer was taken by paramedics to the James Cook University Hospital where she sadly passed away 2 days later. We share our thoughts and deepest sympathy with her friends and family at this extremely difficult time. We are continuing to support our staff involved at the time, who have been commended by customers that witnessed the incident for their professional response to the emergency.

### **Northallerton Sports Village**

The Council is working up plans to develop Northallerton Sports Village which will incorporate the public open space at Stone Cross and land to the north of the site which is to be transferred to the Council as part of the North Northallerton Development. An initial European Regional Development Fund out-line application has been successful and will now progress to the full application stage, with a submission in May. If successful this may generate £500k towards the development of phase 1 which will improve and build pathways for fitness trails, consider new allotment gardens and include soft landscaping to improve habitats for wildlife.

### **QUEST Accolade**

Hambleton's Leisure Centres have been awarded 'National Organisation of the Year (2-10 sites) 2019' by the leisure industry quality scheme – Quest. This follows excellent rated assessments at Stokesley Leisure Centre, Bedale Leisure Centre and Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre in 2019 and Northallerton Leisure Centre in 2018. There are approximately 80 leisure organisations in this category, including trusts and privately operated organisations. Members of the leisure centre management team will collect the award at the Quest annual conference at the end of February.

## **Inclusive Sport**

The Council is starting the year off by increasing the opportunities for disabled people to participate in sport and physical activity. A grant has been secured from Mencap's new Round the World Challenge to set up two new inclusive activities – participants are then issued with a passport to log the hours of activity that they take part in on a weekly basis. Two new disabled football sessions are also starting (one for juniors and one for seniors) at Northallerton Leisure Centre with funding from the County Football Association and Sports England's Satellite Club funding.

Councillor Mrs Bridget Fortune  
Portfolio Holder for Leisure

25 February 2020