

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

**14 December 2021**

### **Sowerby Sports Village**

The Council has been successful in securing £512k from the Football Foundation towards the construction of a 3G pitch at Sowerby Sports Village. A requirement of the funding is that changing provision is available on site and Cabinet has recently approved an approach to delivering this element of the project as part of phase 4 of the award-winning development.

### **Hambleton Heroes**

A further group of Hambleton Heroes has been recognised for the outstanding commitments made to their communities in 2021. Individuals received custom made pin badges, with plaques being issued to organisations. Both receive a letter of appreciation. Social media posts sharing their amazing work are being shared throughout December.

### **Community Grants**

The closing date for Making a Difference grants in 2022 has now closed and Member Panels will meet in the new year to consider the applications. The Bounce Back fund has just been launched to help projects in the market towns that support local economic recovery. The deadline for applications is 30 January 2022, with decisions being approved at Cabinet in March along with the Making a Difference grant awards.

### **Bedale Leisure Centre Developments**

Works on the improvements started in late November, with completion scheduled for early January, ready for all the New Year resolutions. Works are taking place in the gym, studio, sauna and accessible changing room areas.

### **Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre Reopens**

The centre was successfully reopened to the public on the 27 October, with the official reopening taking place on the 2 December with guest of honour Jasmine Harrison, Thirsk & Sowerby's very own solo Atlantic rower. Customers have been delighted with the refurbishment.

### **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

Pre-planning works continue for the £4.7m decarbonisation project across Hambleton's leisure centres. Salix (the Government agency) has approved the schedule of revised work which is timetabled to start in early 2022. Confirmation of start dates will be determined by Northern Powergrid's lead-in times to install the necessary substations at Northallerton, Stokesley and Bedale. A range of technologies including air source heat pumps, solar panels, electrical infrastructure and battery storage will be implemented.

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Portfolio Holder for Leisure