

Sowerby Sports Village

Work on constructing the 3G pitch is well underway and is due to be completed in April. This will be followed by the construction of changing rooms and further landscaping works. Creation of a dog friendly area is also near to completion. An Operational Steering Group made up of Council officers and the key clubs and organisations has been established.

Northallerton Sports Village

Work is currently in progress transferring new land to the north of Stone Cross to the Council. This will enable works to start on phase 1 of the construction of the Northallerton Sports Village in the next few months. These works will include initial improvements to paths, woodlands and landscaping and site preparations for future phases.

Community Grants

As a result of the increased Making a Difference grant fund and the one-off Bounce Back fund, together with the other grants schemes, Hambleton District Council will be providing over £640,000 of much needed support to local groups in 2022/23.

Bedale Leisure Centre Developments

Improvement works were completed, and the centre fully re-opened late January. The centre now boasts an up-to-date gym with the latest TechnoGym equipment, a new sauna, refurbished studio and new virtual cycling solution. The accessible changing room and reception toilets were also refurbished.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

Works are now underway with the decarbonisation schemes at Bedale, Northallerton and Stokesley (Thirsk having been completed earlier). The new technologies will be installed to reduce carbon output by approximately 50%, including air source heat pumps, solar panels, LED lighting, battery storage and upgraded building management systems. Closure of facilities, or selected areas, is required for these major improvements and there are specific programmes for each. During this construction period we will ensure that a minimum of 3 out of the 4 leisure centres will always be open. A comprehensive programme of communication is in place and it is anticipated that the works will be completed by Summer.

Leisure Recruitment

In common with many other different types of organisations our leisure centres are facing difficulties retaining and recruiting employees. This problem is particularly acute in the leisure, hospitality, care and lowly paid sectors. To counter this issue at Hambleton's leisure facilities, a wide scale digital recruitment campaign was initiated earlier in the year, generating over 200 prospective leisure employees. As a result 14 lifeguards and 5 swim coaches have been employed with more rounds of recruitment scheduled in the coming months.

Councillor Paula Thompson
Portfolio Holder for Leisure