

## **Sports Villages**

At Sowerby the 3G pitch construction is complete and connection the electricity network has been made. Moody's are the preferred contractor to construct the changing pavilion and a start date will be advised soon.

In Northallerton, the start of Phase 1 of the sports village is imminent and is due to be complete early 2023. These works include improvements to existing paths and creation of new networks, community allotments, a car park, the enhancement of woodlands and landscaping and site preparations for future phases.

## **Arts project in Northallerton**

Cabinet has recently approved funding to install a piece of public art at Treadmills by internationally renowned sculptor Ray Lonsdale, and to develop the Imaginosity creative arts projects at Mill Hill School and expansion to one other primary school in the district.

## **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

The decarbonisation schemes at Bedale, Northallerton and Stokesley are in their final stages, with work at Northallerton concluding at the end of July. Work at Bedale and Stokesley will be completed in early September as essential work is required in the school summer holidays, both sites are adjoined to secondary schools. Once all the work is completed, electricity will be the single source of energy supply at the 3 centres, removing gas will provide an impressive 50% carbon saving.

## **Post Covid Leisure Centres**

Levels of membership and usage have greatly increased following Covid with Swimming Lessons at 90% and Health & Fitness at 100% of pre Covid levels. Casual swimming is at 75% of pre-pandemic levels. Following nearly 1,500 responses to our recent booking survey, leisure centres have introduced longer swim sessions from July and the option to pre-book or walk-in remains. The need to advance book for the gym has also been removed in response to feedback.

## **Staffing at Leisure Centres**

- Northallerton Leisure Centre hosted their first Swim England Level 1 Assistant Swimming Teacher course in May, seven candidates successfully completed the training.
- Staff shortages continue to be a significant issue for leisure centres across the UK and in Hambleton. Since the turn of the year x2 digital recruitment campaigns have been delivered, generating over 300 interested candidates and resulting in approximately x50 new starters. In July another recruitment drive will be delivered in partnership with leisure providers in Selby and Harrogate.

- X9 aspiring leisure managers are undertaking the L3 Team Leader Apprenticeships programme. As part of the Council's commitment to support employee career development in the lead up to LGR, the programme supports employee retention, competence and adaptability for future progression.

Councillor Paula Thompson  
Portfolio Holder for Leisure