

COUNCIL: 26 JANUARY 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Llandaff Fields

I'm pleased to report that, following an exercise seeking expressions of interest that was aimed at securing investment and attracting new recreational and sporting opportunities, an agreement is being progressed with three organisations – Tennis Wales, Llandaff Cricket Club and Padelastic, an organisation affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association and Tennis Wales providing a new adapted form of the game that is a cross between tennis and squash, which has proven to increase participation across Europe. This will see investment in, and the refurbishment of, the redundant bowls pavilion and bowling green at Llandaff Fields, which will be converted to covered padel tennis courts and will also include the introduction of an online booking system and development of a community padel tennis club that would provide coaching sessions and host competitions.

In addition, Llandaff Cricket Club has secured a grant to install practice nets and the club plans to create a temporary clubhouse/changing facility by recycling and relocating portable office cabins from Cardiff Castle onto the site of the demolished changing rooms and garages. The club is also hoping to secure a substantial grant from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for the creation of a new, permanent clubhouse, which would include provision of a café and community space.

The approach to securing this type of investment is consistent with that taken by the Council in developing alternative models of sporting and recreational provision across the city, and I'm confident that these arrangements will result in increased participation and physical activity that will benefit the local community and beyond.

Weed Control Trial

Earlier this month, the Environmental Scrutiny Committee considered the report of the trial focusing on the use of alternative herbicides for the control of weeds within the public realm. I was particularly pleased that the Committee recognised the thoroughness of the report, the holistic approach taken in assessing the environmental impacts of the alternatives and the plans in place to reduce the volume of herbicides used across our parks estate. The report has generated significant interest from local authorities in England and Wales and throughout the amenity sector. It was considered subsequently by Cabinet on 19 January 2023 where it was agreed that the Council will continue with the current approach of integrated weed control management and use of glyphosate-based products, whilst also continuing to take measures to reduce the use of the glyphosate-based products on all Council landholdings, employing alternative control measures as appropriate.

Coed Caerdydd

Considerable progress is being made with the planting programme for the 2022/23 season, which has seen the planting of 10,000 trees, 59 community planting events and 2,800 volunteer hours being generated. I would like to thank those local ward members who have supported the community planting events across the city through local promotions and the physical planting of trees on site.

Cardiff @ Christmas

I would firstly like to wish all members a very happy and healthy 2023 and take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all our event staff and Visit Cardiff partners for the spectacular Christmas offer that they delivered in 2022. I hope that members were able to enjoy just some of the many attractions that were on offer in our capital city over the festive period.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
20 January 2023