

COUNCIL: 29 JUNE 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Cardiff Food & Drink Festival

I am pleased to confirm that the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival will be returning to Cardiff Bay on 7-9 July 2023. As well as a feast of festival favourites, the event will welcome several newcomers this year. I am delighted that, following the challenges of the past few years, we can once again support and promote independent businesses. Of course, it's not just about the food. Reflecting the Council's Music City agenda, the event will also feature an eclectic live music line up featuring local grassroots and festival stalwarts with everything from Latin Jazz to the Wales National Folk Ensemble. The distinctive red and white stalls of the Craft Folk craft market will also return offering a curated range of handmade arts and crafts and I hope that members will be able to visit and enjoy one of the Capital's favourite anchor events. Further information can be found at www.visitcardiff.com/food-drink/

BBC Cardiff Singer of the World

This year, Cardiff celebrated 40 years of the biennial BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition being held at St David's Hall in Cardiff. To mark this anniversary, the Leader of the Council attended and spoke, alongside the First Minister, at a reception that was held at the Senedd on 9 June 2023 prior to the start of this year's competition. The Council is pleased to support this prestigious competition, which has launched the careers of some of the world's biggest opera stars, including Wales's own Bryn Terfyl.

This year, Cardiff welcomed 16 singers from across the world to compete for the much-prized music title. It was also an especially proud moment for Jessica Robinson from Pembrokeshire, who was the first singer to represent Wales in the competition final in 20 years. This year's competition also welcomed a public audience back to St David's Hall for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic and the performances were broadcast across the BBC to audiences in the UK and beyond. We are delighted that the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition will remain one of the anchor events at the National Concert Hall of Wales.

I am sure that members will wish to join me in congratulating Adolfo Corrado from Italy who won the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2023 competition.

Summer Events Programme

I am sure that members will want to join me in thanking all the officers and 'Team Cardiff' partner agencies for all their support in delivering a successful Pride Cymru 2023 event in the city earlier this month. The sun shone and the city centre looked amazing as the event brought people together in a vibrant and colourful demonstration of unity. The event moved from its previous August date and venue to being held in June at Cardiff Castle at the request of Pride Cymru, and I look forward to reviewing how the organising committee felt the new venue and date worked for them this year.

Cardiff has, once again, been living up to its reputation as an event capital over recent weeks. In one weekend alone this month, the city hosted Pride Cymru, Peter Kay, Blondie, the Urdd Street Games and the Wales v Armenia football match. The city has also hosted large scale music concerts at the Principality Stadium by Beyonce in Coldplay and Harry Styles. There are still many more events to come this summer, including Tafwyl in Bute Park and Tom Jones at Cardiff Castle in July, as well as the Wales v England and Wales v South Africa rugby matches at the Principality Stadium in August – to name just a few.

Further details of all that the city has to offer this summer as part of, what is going to be, a very busy programme of events, is available on the Visit Cardiff website at: <http://www.visitcardiff.com/events> I would also like to thank all the venues and partner agencies involved for their commitment in supporting the recovery of this important sector, which plays such a pivotal role in the economy of the city and wellbeing of our residents and visitors.

Play Area Refurbishments

The Council's investment in children's playgrounds continues and, in recent weeks, we have seen the re-opening, following refurbishment, of the Cogan Gardens site in Cathays and the Heol Llanishen Fach site in Rhiwbina. I know that local ward members are delighted with the quality of the refurbishments, which have also been very well received by the local communities. Both sites have seen a transformation through the provision of welcoming, attractive and safe places to visit, play and enjoy.

Cardiff Local Nature Partnership

I'm also delighted to confirm that the Council has received confirmation that our 'Local Places for Nature' funding from the Welsh Government will continue through until the end of the 2024/25 financial year. A total sum of £1.3 million has been committed for the current and next financial year, this will enable the Council to continue with the work of the Cardiff Local Nature Partnership, which was established in 2020, as part of a Wales-wide nature recovery network to engage with people and communities and coordinate practical action to support biodiversity. The funding will ensure that the Council continues to improve the way it manages grasslands within its parks and green spaces to promote biodiversity; increase planting to support pollinators; create and restore wildlife habitats across the city, and help community groups to improve their local parks and green spaces for nature.

Coed Caerdydd

During July and August 2023, a third round of Coed Caerdydd consultations with all councillors will take place. The consultations will enable officers to receive feedback on previous seasons' plantings, set out proposals for increasing tree canopy through scoping exercises undertaken and take on board local views and ideas. Over 50,000 trees have been planted since the inception of the project in 2021/22 and I would encourage all councillors to engage in the consultation process.

Cardiff Harbour Authority

Last month, Cardiff Harbour Authority was subject to an independent, external assessment, which sought assurances that the service continues to implement an effective environmental management system through the efficient use of resources and reduction of waste. The ISO 14001 – Environmental Management Standard is internationally recognised, and Cardiff Harbour Authority was able to demonstrate the fulfilment of required standards and has retained its registration for a further 12 months.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
23 June 2023