

COUNCIL: 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

Homeless World Cup 2019

The 17th Homeless World Cup arrived in Cardiff on 27 July 2019 and was a hugely successful event. The 8-day football extravaganza welcomed over 500 players from over 50 countries to represent their countries in a festival of football. The event seeks to harness the power of sport in transforming the lives of people experiencing homelessness and social exclusion.

The event was held in Bute Park and provided an excellent opportunity for services to come together to outline the opportunities available to people that face homelessness and social exclusion. The Council's Youth Service also co-ordinated an area that provided workshops, activities, opportunities, as well as information, support and guidance to those people accessing the area. The team welcomed partners each day to provide opportunities for all ages, including Housing Options, Into Work Advice Services, Child Friendly Cities, Public Health and the Sexual Health Outreach Team. All partners that collaborated in the event were impressed with the number of people accessing the event throughout the week.

Sanctuary Games

Sport Cardiff held the first "Sanctuary Games" at Cardiff Metropolitan University Sport Campus over the summer. The event was a partnership involving Sport Cardiff, Cardiff Metropolitan University and The Oasis Refugee Centre. It secured the engagement of a diverse range of 90 participants, using sport as a way of bringing people together to celebrate integration and community. Participants from across continents and 15 different countries were represented, including Angola, El Salvador and Somalia.

Parc Cefn Onn

I am delighted to report that landscape improvements to the upper park at Parc Cefn Onn, known as the 'Dingle', were completed last month and the park has been fully re-opened to the public. The works included footpath improvements, particularly for visitors using motorised wheelchairs, mobility scooters and those with pushchairs, the installation of a new boardwalk to access the upper picnic lawn, restoration of historic features to including water features and the provision of new park furniture. These works form part of the "Into the Garden and Beyond", National Lottery funded project which will see overall investment in the region of £660k. Further works to improve the toilet and interpretation facilities will be implemented later in the year.

Green Flag Awards

I'm pleased to report that following independent assessment in the summer, the Council has retained Green Flag status for 12 of its Parks and Green Spaces, these being Bute Park, Cardiff Bay Barrage, Flat Holm Island, Cardiff Bay Wetlands, Parc Cefn Onn, Roath Park, Heath Park, Rumney Hill Gardens, Victoria Park and Grange Gardens within my portfolio area, and Thornhill Cemetery and Cathays Cemetery within Cllr Michael's portfolio area. This international award recognises well managed parks and green spaces that set the benchmark standard with the Council being required to evidence achievement across a wide range of criteria. Key to Cardiff's success is the contribution made by Friends of Groups and volunteers who engender a sense of ownership and deliver environmental improvements, adding value to service provision.

Prince of Wales Boxing Club

Progress is being made in supporting the Prince of Wales Boxing Club project to provide facilities for the club with the adaption of the former Parks garages located at Sevenoaks Park in Grangetown. HRH The Prince of Wales has pledged his personal support for the project and confirmation of support has also been received from the British-American Project, a transatlantic fellowship that provides support in kind for a wide range of community based projects. A volunteer workforce day designed to refurbish the interior of the building is scheduled to take place later this month. The club plays a critical role in local community providing a range of activities engaging with young people in the locality.

Impact of Sport in Tackling Drug Misuse

A Forensic Health Tutor has been commissioned by Cardiff Metropolitan University to research the impact of sport in relation to tackling drug misuse. The project will be researched in Butetown, specifically in Canal Park, and will engage with young people, dealers and victims. Butetown Boxing Club, which is currently based at the local mosque, will be the intervention at the centre of the scheme. Boxing is an excellent vehicle for this type of project and I will be following its development with interest.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
6 September 2019