

COUNCIL: 18 JULY 2019

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

BMX Track

The newly refurbished BMX Track at the Maindy Centre is already proving to be a very popular facility with users following its opening at the end of June. The refurbishment works were funded via a Welsh Government capital grant through Sport Wales and in partnership with GLL and Cardiff BMX Racing Club. Works have been taking place to install a new drainage system, lay a tarmac surface and make reprofiling adjustments to the runs. The track is open alongside Maindy Centre opening hours and is free to use.

Facilities like the BMX Track at Maindy provide important first steps to introducing young people to the sport of BMX, providing them with essential bike handling skills that are invaluable in any form of cycling they wish to pursue. Cardiff BMX Racing Club will be holding sessions to enable riders to progress their cycling in a fun and safe environment.

Pontprennau Gymnastics Club

I was delighted to learn that Pontprennau Gymnastics Club has been awarded a Disability Sport Wales insport ribbon, with support from Sport Cardiff, for their commitment to including disabled people in physical activity. As a new club, they have embraced inclusion and have also achieved Sport Cardiff 'Super Club' status for ensuring high standards in community sport.

Cardiff International White Water

Cardiff International White Water Centre is now an official drinking water refill station as part of the Refill scheme within Cardiff that is designed to help reduce the use of single use plastics and plastic pollution. The café venue within the centre is now also plastic free.

National Exercise Referral Scheme

The National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) team has been building on its existing successful partnership with the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at University Hospital Llandough (UHL). The NERS team recently held an inter-centre competition at Channel View Centre on 3rd July 2019 to help raise money for the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit to improve the health and fitness equipment provided at UHL. Over 30 players took part and helped to raise a total of £1,000 on the day through sponsorship.

With increasing referrals for stroke patients into the NERS in Cardiff, the NERS team has also introduced two new walking football teams playing from Channel View Centre and Fairwater Leisure Centre. There are currently between 15-20

players registered at both facilities. This form of physical activity improves all-round health and fitness, as well as supporting significant improvements in motor skills, strength and balance. It is also a fantastic way to meet new people and interact socially.

Summer Events Programme

Our summer events programme is in full swing, with the annual Cardiff Food & Drink Festival having been held earlier this month. A new look event site proved to be a great success and I want to thank the combined efforts of the food producers, the Council's events team and Production 78 who all worked tirelessly to deliver this year's event and ensure that the event remains free to enter.

The event site is now being cleared in preparation for the return of the Cardiff Bay Beach to its home at Roald Dahl Plass after its relocation last year due to the National Eisteddfod. It will be open from 20th July to 1st September 2019 and I am sure that Sayers Amusement Ltd will ensure that visitors and residents alike will enjoy another successful event this year.

I am sure that those Members who attended will also wish to join me in congratulating Ukrainian baritone, Andrei Kymach, in winning the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019 title on 22 June 2019. My thanks and congratulations go to everyone at the BBC and St David's Hall for their hard work in delivering another successful and hugely enjoyable competition.

Play Service

The Children's Play Service has organised a fun-filled play programme for children in Cardiff, aged 5 years to 15 years, for the 6-week school summer holiday period. The highlight of the holidays will be the National Play Day event on 7th August 2019 at Pontcanna Fields. The service will be delivering a range of play schemes that include 'Pop-Up Play' in parks, community hubs and church halls. The Children's Play team have collaborated with a number of organisations to deliver these schemes across Cardiff, including YMCA Young Carers, SHEP (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) and local schools. The service also bid successfully for 'Holiday Hunger' grant funding to provide free food through the holiday to children who would normally receive Free School Meals.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
12 July 2019