

COUNCIL: 21 OCTOBER 2021

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

Green Flag Awards

Members may have already seen the social media activity relating to the Green Flag Awards for 2021 and I am very pleased to report that the Council has been successful in retaining the quality standard for its current group of 14 parks with the addition of a new Green Flag Award for Waterloo Gardens in Penylan. This is a great achievement at a time when services have been recovering from the pandemic and is testament to the efforts of our parks' workforce and the Friends of and local community groups who play a significant role in ensuring that the scheme's benchmark standards are met.

New BMX Facility

I am delighted to report that planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new BMX facility in Llanrumney, which will be a great asset for the east of the city and a much-needed facility to attract young people into positive activities. Works are scheduled to commence prior to Christmas with completion anticipated before the end of March 2022. The facility will not only provide grassroots opportunities, but will also have the ability to accommodate elite riding and host major competitions and events. This facility combined with the new 3G football pitch scheme in Llanrumney, in partnership with Cardiff University and Cardiff City Football Club, will create a fantastic sporting hub destination.

Skateboard Park Consultation

The Council is currently consulting on a Skateboard Strategy by engaging with children and young people in Cardiff through a variety of social media platforms and youth forums. The online survey can be found at: <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=163187811098> The results will inform the allocation of resources and permanent provision, rather than the pop-up temporary provision currently on offer, and will ensure maximum benefit for investment in destination sites.

Children's Play Service

The Children's Play Service has been successful in recruiting to its first ever trainee post. The successful candidate will follow a course of study leading to the Play Wales NVQ Level 2 award, supplemented by a programme of vocational training with our experienced Play Officers supporting the delivery of play schemes for some of our most hard-to-reach communities in the city. This appointment underlines my portfolio area's continuing commitment in providing training and career opportunities, aiding succession planning.

Covid-19 Impact on Culture & Leisure

It gave me great pleasure last month to share with Members a long-awaited update on the reopening of culture and leisure venues. Whilst we continue to remain vigilant against the threat of Covid-19, the response from our workforce, partners and our visitors and patrons has been encouraging. I have every confidence that through this continued conscientious and collaborative effort, we can continue to keep our venues safe and open as we navigate the challenging winter months.

I promised that I would provide further details about our Christmas plans for 2021. Our Christmas web page <https://www.visitcardiff.com/christmas> launched our 100-day countdown on 16 September 2021. I am grateful to the Visit Cardiff Team and the wider Visit Cardiff network for their contribution and support in delivering a comprehensive offer of Christmas attractions for our residents and visitors to enjoy. Through their collaboration, I have every confidence that we will be able to encourage longer stays to the city as there will be much to see and do safely.

This year we are also working in partnership with Great Western Railway (GWR) to promote Cardiff as a destination at Christmas to a cross-border audience, focussing on the locations on the GWR route. This joint promotion will raise awareness of the festive activities on offer and Welsh Government Covid safety protocols, whilst also promoting the benefits of travelling by train.

The Christmas Market will open on 11 November 2021 and the city centre's Christmas lights will be lit from 12 November 2021. Winter Wonderland will open on 16 November 2021 across its two new sites of Cardiff Castle and City Hall lawn followed by the launch of the 'Christmas at Bute Park' illumination trail, which will open on 25 November 2021.

Last but certainly not least, Santa will be returning to Cardiff Castle for a limited run of exclusive private tours. The tours will include a personal costumed guide, treasure hunt and lantern tour. Tickets went on sale on 11 October 2021 and I would certainly encourage people to book promptly as numbers and slots will be limited due to ongoing safety considerations.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
14 October 2021