

COUNCIL: 30 JUNE 2022

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

I would like to thank council officers and event partners for their delivery of a very busy Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend in Cardiff earlier this month. Highlights included the lighting of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon outside the Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay and the visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Cardiff Castle ahead of the Platinum Jubilee concert on Saturday 4 June. Together with two of their children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte, the royal couple met many of the artists taking part in the concert, together with Rubicon Dance who were hosting an interactive session with children from Adamsdown Primary School and Shelter Cymru, the charity partner for the event.

The Council facilitated over 60 road closures in the city to enable celebratory street parties to be held over the weekend and on Sunday 5 June facilitated a Big Jubilee Picnic in Bute Park for residents and visitors to enjoy their own celebration whilst watching the Royal Pageant on a large screen provided with the support of the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. Sadly, following two days of glorious sunshine, the weather turned on the Sunday, but we still had a strong contingent who were determined to make the most of the extended weekend and a little rain did not deter them from enjoying the pageant, coupled with some local interaction with some colourful walkabout street entertainers, including giant flamingos, two mischievous bumble bees and a giant sloth.

Dreamachine

Dreamachine – created by Collective Act, in collaboration with Turner Prize winning artist Assemble; Grammy Award and Mercury Music Prize nominated composer Jon Hopkins, and a team of leading technologists, scientists and philosophers – completed its month-long residence at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff on 18 June 2022. Part of the Festival 22 programme of events, Dreamachine was promoted as a magical journey designed to explore the extraordinary potential of your mind and was conjured entirely by light and music. The colourful world of the Dreamachine was a unique experience for everyone who took part and the partnership between the Council's Economic Development, Events, Creative and Cultural Teams, in response to an approach from the Welsh Government, was instrumental in the successful delivery of the event.

Tafwyl

I was pleased to attend and speak at Tafwyl, the Welsh language festival, which returned to Cardiff Castle on 18 & 19 June for the first time since 2019. Held virtually in 2020 and 2021, it was great to see so many people coming together in person to celebrate Welsh language and culture in Cardiff. There was live music, theatre, comedy, food and drink over the two days.

Summer Programme of Events

The Council continues to facilitate and support a very busy summer season of events in the city. Highlights include the return of the Cardiff Food & Drink Festival to Cardiff Bay on 1-3 July 2022 and the return of the FIM Speedway Grand Prix of Great Britain to the Principality Stadium for its 20th year on 13 August 2022. On 3 September 2022, the city will also be welcoming WWE professional wrestling to the Principality Stadium. This will be the first WWE major stadium event in the UK for more than 30 years and officers from the Council and Welsh Government are working closely with WWE to ensure the success of the event. Further details of the city's busy summer programme can be found at: www.visitcardiff.com

Forever Flowers

It is important that we do not forget the very real emotional challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past two years, which is why I am pleased to confirm that the Forever Flowers display is being held again this year at Cardiff Castle from 30 July to 14 August 2022. This initiative was launched by the City Hospice in summer 2021 and saw over 1,400 Forever Flowers pre-purchased by the public in memory of a loved one to help form a striking display in Cardiff Castle. This year's choice of flowers is a sunflower, which for many symbolises positivity, admiration, loyalty, and devotion. The display will, once again, provide an opportunity for people to come together, celebrate, remember and pay tribute to their loved ones in, what I'm sure will be, a very special and moving occasion. On the final weekend of the display, supporters are welcome to either take their Forever Flower home from Cardiff Castle or they can have theirs sent to their home by post following the event.

Museum of Cardiff

Following a challenging two years, it is encouraging to see visitors returning to our venues. The Museum of Cardiff was visited by 6,172 people last month, of which 167 were primary school pupils learning about 'changes in Cardiff over time' and 'Wales and the world'. Adult ESOL learners from Cardiff & Vale College also visited the museum to develop their language skills, whilst learning about Cardiff's history. In-person reminiscence sessions have been relaunched at the museum, with some of those who had been coming to the online sessions visiting the museum for the first time. Dinky Dragons (toddler day) also restarted this month.

Green Flag Awards

I can confirm that this year's round of Green Flag Award assessments has been completed and involved twelve sites in the city receiving full independent assessments and three sites being subject to mystery shopping assessments. The Council's new submission for 2022, Hendre Lake in the Trowbridge Ward, was

subject to a full assessment, led by one of the senior assessors in Wales. The Green Flag Award scheme is a worldwide benchmark standard, recognising well-managed parks and green spaces, measured against eight key criteria. One of the key criteria is community involvement and I want to recognise the significant contribution made by our Friends of Groups and volunteer network who are critical to the management and development of our all our parks, including those that hold Green Flag status. The outcome of this year's assessment will be confirmed in late July 2022.

Coed Caerdydd

Our Coed Caerdydd project, which aims to increase the tree canopy across the city, is gathering momentum, with the 2021/22 season resulting in the planting of circa 20,000 trees over 8 hectares of land across the city. The interest and engagement from local communities and volunteers has been very encouraging, with over 750 individuals participating in planting activity leading to 1,880 volunteer hours being generated. In order to shape the 2022/23 planting programme, our Coed Caerdydd Project Manager will be arranging ward-based meetings with local members next month, ensuring that our plans are communicated, and that local views and aspirations are understood.

Linked to Coed Caerdydd and recognising the Council's commitment to tree management and development, Cardiff has also been designated as a 'Tree City of the World' as part of a programme by the Arbor Day Foundation. In securing the designation, five core standards need to be demonstrated and Cardiff now joins 19 other cities/areas within the UK and 119 other cities/areas worldwide to hold this status. The designation also opens up further opportunities for collaboration and development with other cities/areas in the UK and worldwide.

Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff

Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff, our partnership project with RSPB Cymru and Buglife Cymru, which aims to connect local communities and children with nature, continues to go from strength to strength. Notwithstanding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, participation in 2021/22 has included:

- 1,048 primary and early years school children, across 20 wards in Cardiff, received an outdoor learning opportunity through the project's outreach programme. Of these children, 63% lived in wards with high levels of multiple deprivation.
- A further 327 children were taken outside by their teachers over lockdown, using the RSPB's first digital schools' session 'Habitat Explorer'.
- 548 children, across 22 wards in Cardiff, connected to nature through an event in their local area. Of these children, 49% lived in wards with high levels of multiple deprivation.
- 168 community groups and citizens took action for nature in their local area.
- The project led a partnership to deliver the first ever bilingual [City Nature Challenge/Her Byd Natur y Ddinas](#) in 2021, which enabled 65 individuals to make research grade observations for European recording schemes.

Allotment Support Grant Funding

I am pleased to report that the Welsh Government has confirmed an indicative sum of £59k under the Allotment Support Grant for 2022/23. The grant will support the implementation of infrastructure improvements on sites with priorities for spend being determined through an established risk-based assessment of need.

Sport Wales Grant Funding

I am also pleased to report that a further £1.2m in grant funding has been awarded by Sport Wales to deliver sports and physical activity programmes through schools, clubs and voluntary organisations in Cardiff, with specific targeted work planned for women and girls, BAME communities and some of the most deprived areas of the city.

Councillor Jennifer Burke-Davies
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
23 June 2022