

COUNCIL: 24 NOVEMBER 2022

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

Museum of Cardiff

A mural found in Cardiff, which was created by the mysterious Glaswegian Street artist, The Rebel Bear, has been successfully and safely relocated to the Museum of Cardiff to form part of a 3-month Protest exhibition. The artwork, which recently appeared on hoardings on Ferry Road by the International Sports Village, was painted by the 'Scottish Banksy' in support of a disabled woman who lives in the city and who is involved in a court dispute with a private car park operator. Like Banksy, the Rebel Bear's identity remains a mystery and they reportedly do their artwork whilst dressed in a bear costume.

The public can now view the artwork at the Museum of Cardiff as part of the Protest exhibition, which explores 100 years of activism and protest in our capital city from the Suffragette movement of the early 1900s to the Women's March of 2017, showcasing how people fought for their ideals and shining a light on the communities which have pulled together for a common cause. After the work is exhibited at the Museum, it is hoped that we can possibly return the artwork to a new permanent home in the International Sports Village development.

Christmas at Bute Park Light Trail

Our Christmas Light Trail partners, From the Fields, have been busy installing this year's network of lighting throughout Bute Park, with additional investment in their product, which will ensure a memorable experience for all those visiting this year. In total, 120,000 visits were recorded last year and bookings to date indicate that greater visitor numbers will visit the attraction this year. Last year also saw over 4,000 tickets gifted to charities and good causes, over 2,700 free tickets allocated to personal assistants/carers and over £5,000 raised for the Bute Park Improvement Project Donation Scheme. The event, which opens to the public on 24 November 2022 and runs to 1 January 2023, brings a significant economic benefit to the city.

APSE Best Performer Award

The Council's Parks Service has been named as a finalist in the APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Best Performer Awards in the Parks, Open Spaces & Horticultural Services category. Those local authorities shortlisted for the award have been able to demonstrate improved performance across a wide range of cost, quality and environmental indicators and the winner will be announced at APSE's Annual Performance Networks Seminar next month.

Green Flag Awards Scheme – ‘Best of the Best’ Awards

I'm also pleased to report that the Council's Bute Park Team have been successful in winning the Team of the Year (Park Staff) award at the UK 'Best of the Best' Awards, which took place on 15 November 2022. Grow Cardiff's 'Grow Well' project also won the Best Health Initiative award for the positive impact that their therapeutic community gardening has made on the health and well-being of local individuals. The awards scheme, which recognises excellence in innovation and service delivery, is managed by Keep Britain Tidy who also manage the Green Flag Awards Scheme.

Roath Park Lake

The annual regime of vegetation management at Roath Park Lake is nearing completion. This work has seen the lowering of water levels, the cutting back of perimeter growth, and debris clearance on the water and in and around the weir area.

Cardiff Harbour Authority

Following an inspection by the British Standards Institution (BSI) last month, I can advise that Cardiff Harbour Authority has retained its ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Accreditation, demonstrating a commitment to proactively maintaining and improving environmental performance across all functions within the service.

Flat Holm

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Project, 'Flat Holm – A Walk Through Time', improvements to nature conservation management on Flat Holm have been made through the introduction of a small flock of ten rare breed Boreray Sheep. With support from Natural Resources Wales' Grazing Animals Project, the flock, which was introduced last month, will help to manage the vegetation within the lesser black-backed gull colony to optimise nesting habitats in a bid to increase the numbers of nesting pairs on the island.

Community Leases for Local Football Clubs

Interest from local football clubs looking to invest in council-owned facilities continues, supported by funding opportunities from the Football Association of Wales (FAW) and officers from my portfolio area. Work to develop a number of community leases to enable funding to be secured is ongoing, including current projects at Llanishen Park with Cardiff Cosmopolitan FC; at the former Llanrumney High School site with Llanrumney United FC; at the Mound Field in Morganstown with Radyr Rangers FC; at Poplar Park with Fairwater FC and at Tremorfa Park with St Albans FC and RFC. Community leases benefit clubs by enabling them to attract capital funding, where the Council is unable to, resulting in facility improvements and compliance with league criteria, which in turn increases participation and engenders a real sense of ownership.

FIFA World Cup 2022

The Wales national team's qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar will result in significant funding opportunities for the FAW and for grassroots football in Wales, and we are already seeing an increase in the capital funding available for affiliated clubs. As a patriotic Irish woman, I would like to take the opportunity to wish Wales every success in the competition. The success of the nation brings with it increased participation and a real sense of pride.

Councillor Jennifer Burke-Davies
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
18 November 2022