

COUNCIL: 26 OCTOBER 2023

CULTURE, PARKS & EVENTS STATEMENT

UEFA European Championships 2028

The UK and Republic of Ireland have been confirmed as hosts of the 2028 UEFA European Football Championships. The decision by UEFA was confirmed at a ceremony held in Switzerland on 10 October 2023 and will see matches being played in Wales as part of a major senior men's international football tournament for the very first time. Cardiff has a successful track record of hosting major football matches at the Principality Stadium, which will be referred to as the National Stadium of Wales for EURO 2028 matches. These have included the UEFA Champions League Final in 2017, matches as part of the London 2012 Olympic Football Tournament, as well as FA Cup and League Cup Finals. I am sure that our Team Wales approach will, once again, rise to the challenge of hosting EURO 2028 matches in Cardiff. I would also like to thank all those involved in the preparation of the successful bid.

Coed Caerdydd

As the tree planting season approaches, I'd like to thank local ward members for participating in the scoping exercise led by the Coed Caerdydd team, which took place during the summer and has helped to shape the 2023/24 programme. I'm pleased to advise that plans are in place to plant in excess of 30,000 trees and hedging plants on council land and land in private ownership, with activity planned throughout all wards across the city. This will add to more than 50,000 trees that have been planted in the first two seasons of the project. This year's programme will also see an increase in planting in areas of low tree canopy and in areas of hard infrastructure.

Building on the over 5,000 volunteer hours generated on the project to date, I anticipate that the 2023/24 programme will see in the region of 150 engagement events with stakeholder groups, with a continuing emphasis on involvement with local schools. I'm also very grateful for the continued support and funding from a range of stakeholders, including the Woodland Trust through their Tree Emergency Fund and Ancient Tree Inventory Project; Trees for Cities through their Urban Forest Programme, and the Welsh Government through the Local Nature Partnership.

Critical to the ongoing success of the project will also be continued engagement with local ward members and other stakeholders, enabling achievement of our canopy expansion and articulating Cardiff's status of a Tree City of the World.

Llanrumney Skatepark

Planning permission has been granted for the development of a new purpose built, concrete formed destination skatepark at the site of Eastern Leisure Centre. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the skateboarding community and local stakeholder youth groups on the design of the new facility and the process currently of seeking specialist contractors to construct the facility has commenced. We anticipate works starting on site early in the New Year.

Drovers Way Play Area

I'm delighted to report that, following extensive highway drainage works that have recently been completed, our contractors are now on site at Drovers Way Park in Radyr to implement the play area refurbishment scheme. Consultation with the community and local ward members shaped the design of the park and, subject to ground conditions, the new play area will open early in the New Year.

Cardiff Metropolitan University – Open Campus

I recently attended an event and signed a pledge to continue to develop sport and physical activity for school children in the city in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University. The Open Campus project is engaging 500 children from Cardiff schools every week through access to the inspirational facilities at the University's Cyncoed campus, together with coaching from enthusiastic student coaches who are also being deployed into school settings with a particular focus on the Southern Arc of the city. There are already some inspiring case studies evidencing that the programme is making a real difference in engaging children who would not normally have taken part in sport and physical activity.

Councillor Jennifer Burke
Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks & Events
20 October 2023