

COUNCIL: 20 JUNE 2019

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

2019 Urdd National Eisteddfod

I am sure that Members will wish to join me in congratulating the organisers of the 2019 Urdd National Eisteddfod that was held in Cardiff Bay from 27th May to 1st June. Access to the Maes was free this year and resulted in over 100,000 people visiting the festival over the six days. A new development which proved to be very popular was extending the entertainment on the Maes itself, with bands such as Chroma, Gwilym, Candelas and Fleur de Lis playing on two stages on the Maes.

The Wales Millennium Centre and surrounding areas of Roald Dahl Plass provided a sensational backdrop to a range of activities celebrating Welsh language and culture. 797 branches of the Urdd took part in the Eisteddfod; 14,500 pieces of Art, Design and Technology work were submitted and 70,000 names from all parts of Wales and beyond were registered to compete in a wide range of competitions. My congratulations to all those who took part.

Museum of Cardiff

The Cardiff Story Museum has launched a new appeal for funds with a change of name. As a result, from 3rd June 2019, the Cardiff Story has become the Museum of Cardiff.

This move coincides with the museum's plan to raise half a million pounds to help support future programmes, exhibitions and education work. The museum is now 8 years old and, in that time, it has welcomed over 1.1 million visitors from Cardiff and all over the world. Every year, the museum works with and supports 100 different community groups and organisations. It is a true asset to the city's cultural offer and is the only place that locals and tourists alike can come to explore and celebrate our city's rich history. The name change reflects an exciting new phase in the museum's development.

The funds raised by this campaign, which will be matched pound-for-pound by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will help to provide vital long-term support to supplement the investment already being made by the Council, together with a range of generous supporters. I would ask Members to do all that they can to help promote and support this fundraising initiative.

Eco-Tourism Campaign

Building on the legacy of hosting the Volvo Ocean Race in 2018 and also coinciding with World Oceans Day, Visit Cardiff and Cardiff Harbour Authority have teamed up with charities, including Keep Wales Tidy and Surfers Against Sewage, to launch an Eco-Tourism campaign. The campaign will build on the sustainability lessons learned during last year's Volvo Ocean Race and aims to inspire businesses in the leisure and tourism sector, as well as visitors to the city, to change their behaviour to help the environment. Over 70 business delegates attended a Visit Cardiff breakfast session, which explored a variety of topics linked to sustainability in the leisure and tourism industry. The feedback from the event showed that people were inspired to make positive changes. To build on the momentum created by the event, Visit Cardiff have also created a marketing plan to continue the conversations with both their official network and visitors about sustainability and they plan to monitor any positive changes/outcomes.

Summer Event Programme

Whilst we continue to build on the legacy of previous events, this year's summer event programme is promising a feast of attractions for visitors and residents alike. With hopefully something for everyone, the highlights include Joust, Cardiff Bay Beach, Food & Drink Festival, Tafwyl, Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival, Cardiff Singer of the World, Depot in the Castle, Sound of the City in Cardiff Castle, Aqua Park in Cardiff Bay, Pride Cymru's Big Weekend, Speedway Grand Prix, Manchester United v AC Milan, Luna Cinema at Cardiff Castle and Rugby World Cup 2019 warm up fixtures at Principality Stadium to name but a few.

I am delighted to report that a new leisure offer in Cardiff Bay will open on 29th June 2019 with the launch of an Aqua Park covering an area of approximately 8,000 square metres. The facility is located adjacent to the Barrage embankment and will provide opportunities for those aged six upwards to interact with a range of inflatable features, including climbing walls, trampolines, giant slides, blast bags and towers. The Aqua Park will also provide up to 50 local jobs through our operator, Aqua Park Cardiff. The facility will be open through to September 2019.

Sports and Leisure Facilities

I am pleased to confirm that the Welsh Government has confirmed a grant award of £1.9 million for the development of new sports facilities on Canal Park, Butetown to include a floodlit 3G pitch, changing facilities and associated infrastructure. This is a partnership project involving the Council and Cardiff & Vale College. Local community clubs will be consulted and will have priority for use of the new facilities, as well as local primary schools.

Last month, I attended the re-launch of Llanrumney Phoenix Boxing Club who have completed the asset transfer of the John Reynolds Centre and secured over £250,000 in external grants to refurbish the facility. Health and fitness activities are now being offered with classes at full capacity. It was also inspiring to see the boxing talent on show and how young men and women are developing through sport.

Officers are also working closely with Butetown Youth Club to secure the facility for use by the newly established Gymnastics Club whilst refurbishment work is underway at the venue. The club has been extremely successful in recruiting girls from the local Muslim community and I want to ensure there is no disruption to training sessions to ensure that the girls continue to participate and the club grows.

New offers continue to be trialled in our leisure centres through our partnership arrangements with GLL. These include an exciting new Air-Venture inflatable obstacle course, which was launched at Western Leisure Centre on 25th May 2019. This state of the art giant inflatable assault course will bring many hours of fun for children and families and has great potential to become a city-wide attraction.

Playday 2019

Playday is the national day for play, which is traditionally held annually on the first Wednesday in August. It is the biggest play sector event in the UK and is coordinated by Play Wales. As well as a celebration of children's right to play, Playday is a campaign that highlights the importance of play in children's lives. This year, the Children's Play Service will be celebrating national Playday on Wednesday 7th August 2019 with an event to be held at Llandaff Fields. The event will be hosted in partnership with Menter Caerdydd, Flying Start and the Cardiff Library Service to name but a few. The event will offer a range of play opportunities from junk modelling to bug safaris and will be open to all age groups.

Bright Start Awards 2019

I was delighted to learn of the recognition received by council services within my portfolio at the Bright Start Awards 2019 event held last month, which was hosted by my Cabinet colleague, Councillor Graham Hinchey. It was particularly pleasing to see the team at Cardiff International White Water being awarded a gold medal for their work as mentors and trainers, as well as the Parks team who received a gold award in recognition of the quality of supported opportunities that they provide.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
14 June 2019