

COUNCIL: 26 NOVEMBER 2020

CULTURE & LEISURE STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM:

Floral Displays at Cardiff Castle

Officers in the Parks Service have been working with representatives from the Yellow Hearts To Remember group, established to support those who have lost a loved one to Covid-19, to depict a floral design for the carpet bed fronting Cardiff Castle. The yellow heart, as a symbol, demonstrates love for those lost. The group provides a platform, via Facebook, to share pictures and stories of loved ones and also provides a vital support network. The display will be installed in spring 2021 to coincide with a national day to unite in memory on 23rd March.

The Council has also, once again, shown its support for the White Ribbon campaign, underlining our commitment to ending male violence against women and girls by depicting the white ribbon florally within the carpet bed at the castle. The design was installed ahead of White Ribbon Day on 25th November 2020.

Sport & Leisure

I am pleased to report that Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL), the Council's leisure partner, has been able to re-open leisure facilities post-firebreak. The number of facilities now open has increased when compared with pre-firebreak and additional programming has been introduced to include a focus on learning to swim. Staff are now more experienced in responding to the challenges of dealing with closures and re-opening and, thankfully, they are reporting good customer footfall again, albeit on a reduced scale due to the various rules and regulations for Covid-safe operation. I continue to lobby on behalf of the leisure sector as the health and well-being benefits derived from their services have become increasingly apparent during the pandemic.

Recognising the benefits of sport, physical activity and community cohesion at this time, I have also engaged with the National Governing Bodies for Sport and actively encouraged them to bring back mini and junior rugby and football in Cardiff. Despite restrictions on the use of changing facilities owing to the risks posed by Covid-19, training, mini, and junior rugby interclub fixtures have all now returned to our parks. In addition, in line with the Football Association of Wales (FAW) Phase 3 re-start, competitive football fixtures are taking place across senior and junior leagues.

Cardiff @ Christmas

Building on the success of the Castle Quarter initiative, the Council has continued to work with its partners to support the critical Christmas trading period in the city centre by ensuring that it offers a safe festive experience for our residents as they prepare for Christmas.

Highlights include Santa's Private Christmas Tour through the festively dressed Castle Apartments and an Alpine Food & Drink offer in Castle Street, where household groups can relax from shopping and enjoy a special Christmas treat in their own alpine ski hut or picnic table with food ordered through the Yoello app. Alternatively, the Castle Keep Dining experience offers a warming winter menu each evening with an opportunity to also buy that last special gift from the Castle Gift Shop. The Christmas Craft Fayre has also returned offering an eclectic mix of both new and returning exhibitors offering original handmade gifts.

Critical to enjoying all the city has to offer this Christmas is strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. The Council has worked tirelessly to ensure that all relevant safety measures are in place, but residents must take personal accountability for the way in which they visit, move around and engage with others as they visit the city centre. Residents should consider and plan their visit, ensure that they maintain two-metre social distancing with anyone outside their household group, wash/sanitise their hands often and wear face coverings (as appropriate) to help protect their loved ones and the wider community. Full details and Covid-19 guidance are available on www.visitcardiff.com/Christmas to help residents plan their visit.

Support for the Creative Sector

Members will be aware that the demand for the Creative Freelancer Grant exceeded supply in Cardiff, which meant that on both occasions the grant was closed within an hour of opening. The Council and the Cardiff Music Board called on the UK and Welsh Governments to provide urgent financial support to the creative sector including live music, arts organisations, and cultural venues. Subsequently, the Welsh Government has agreed to a further round of funding, with a significant uplift in light of the levels of demand in Cardiff. This is much needed financial support for a sector that has been hit more than most as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
19 November 2020