

December 2022

Hartbeat



www.hartlepool.gov.uk



@hpoolcouncil



HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Christmas and New Year Opening Times 2022/23

Details correct at time of going to print. For any further updates visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/christmas-opening-times

Civic Centre

Main reception and telephones

Fri 23 Dec	Closed from 4.30pm
Tue 3 Jan	Reopen 8.30am (phone lines) and 9am (reception)

Register Office

Open on Wed 28, Thu 29 and Fri 30 Dec. For opening hours and details of the services available visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/registeroffice/christmas or call 01429 523337.

Aneurin Bevan House

Fri 23 Dec	Closed from 4.30pm until 28 Dec
Wed 28 Dec – Fri 30 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 31 Dec – Mon 2 Jan	Closed
Tue 3 Jan	Reopens 8.30am

Children's Hub & Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Team

Closes 4.30pm Fri 23 Dec and reopen 8.30am Wed 28 Dec.
Wed 28 Dec – Thu 29 Dec 8.30am – 5pm
Fri 30 Dec 8.30am – 4.30pm
Closes 4.30pm Fri 30 Dec. Reopen 8.30am Tue 3 Jan
Tel – 01429 284284
The Emergency Duty Team will operate at all other times including evenings, weekends and bank holidays – Tel - 01642 524552.

One Stop Shop - Windsor Offices

Mon 19 Dec – Fri 23 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 24 Dec – Mon 2 Jan	Closed
Tue 3 Jan onwards	Normal hours
Tel – 01429 284043 / 523900	Facebook – Hartlepool Youth Services

Youth Justice Service/Through Care Service – Windsor Offices

Mon 19 Dec – Fri 23 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 24 Dec – Tue 27 Dec	Closed
Wed 28 Dec – Fri 30 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 31 Dec – Mon 2 Jan	Closed
Tue 3 Jan onwards	Normal hours
Tel - 01429 523986 / 401891	

Mill House Leisure Centre, Brierton Sports Centre and Headland Sports Hall

Sat 24 Dec	Mill House	8am – 3.30pm
	Brierton	8am – 3.30pm
	Headland	Closed
Sun 25 - Tue 27 Dec		All closed
Wed 28 Dec	Mill House	6.30am – 8.45pm
	Brierton	7am – 7pm
	Headland	7am – 7pm
Thu 29 Dec	Mill House	6.30am – 8.45pm
	Brierton	7am – 7pm
	Headland	7am – 7pm
Fri 30 Dec	Mill House	6.30am – 8.45pm
	Brierton	7am – 7pm
	Headland	7am – 7pm
Sat 31 Dec	Mill House	8am – 3.30pm
	Brierton	8am – 3.30pm
	Headland	Closed
Sun 1 Jan - Mon 2 Jan		All closed
Tue 3 Jan onwards		Normal Opening Hours

Hartlepool Art Gallery

Closes 3pm on Sat 24 Dec. Reopens 10am on Tue 3 Jan.

Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre

Closed following the matinee performance of Jack and the Beanstalk on Sat 24 Dec until Tue 3 Jan.

Borough Hall

Closed from Fri 23 Dec until Tue 3 Jan other than for existing wedding bookings.

Museum of Hartlepool

Sat 24 Dec – Mon 26 Dec	Closed
Tue 27 Dec onwards	Normal hours

Summerhill Visitors Centre

Closes 3pm Fri 23 Dec. Reopens Tue 3 Jan

* Please note the Summerhill site is permanently open.

Household Waste Recycling Centre

Open Wednesday to Sunday 9am – 4pm (closed 12 noon – 1pm) except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Also open Tue 3 Jan 9am – 4pm (closed 12 noon – 1pm).
Residents wanting to use the site MUST book an appointment in advance either online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hwrcbookings or by calling 01429 523333.

Bulky Waste Collection Service

The last day for the Bulky Waste Collection Service is Fri 23 Dec, restarting Tue 3 Jan. Tel: 01429 523333.

Collections over the Festive Period

There are **no changes** to refuse/recycling collections over the Christmas and New Year period - collections are **as normal**. Please ensure that your bin is placed out before 7.30am on your collection day, as normal.
Individual collection dates are online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/findmybinday

Christmas Tree Collections

You can dispose of your real Christmas tree at the Household Waste Recycling Centre free of charge - Christmas trees will be accepted from Wed 28 Dec.
Residents must book an appointment to dispose of their tree at the HWRC.
Alternatively, we are offering a collection service for real trees from Tue 10 Jan. Residents wishing to use this service **must** book in for the collection to take place - book online at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/collectmytree or call 01429 523333. You must ensure that all decorations are removed prior to disposal. The collection service has a limited number of slots, which are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dog Warden Service

From Sat 24 Dec up to and including Mon 2 Jan collections of found/stray dogs will be carried out by the East Durham Animal Ambulance – please call 07792 453126 during the following times:

Sat 24 Dec	8.30am – 4pm
Sun 25 - Mon 26 Dec	Closed
Tue 27 Dec – Sat 31 Dec	8.30am – 4pm
Sun 1 Jan	Closed
Mon 2 Jan	8.30am – 4pm

Alternatively, members of the public can take the dog directly to the kennels at Stray Aid Rescue Centre, Cornforth Lane, Co Durham, DH6 4EJ. Call 0300 999 42 47 during the following times:

Sat 24 Dec	10am – 4pm
Sun 25 Dec – Mon 26 Dec	Closed
Tue 27 Dec – Sat 31 Dec	10am – 4pm
Sun 1 Jan	Closed

Dogs can also be reclaimed from the kennels during the above times. Normal service resumes on Tue 3 Jan.

Schools and Academies

Schools and academies will inform families of their closure dates over the Christmas period. Parents can also check school/academy term dates by visiting their child's school/academy website.

Community Hubs & Libraries

Fri 23 Dec	Normal hours
Sat 24 Dec	
Community Hub South	10am – 12 noon
Seaton Carew Library	10am – 12 noon
All other buildings	Closed
Sun 25 – Tue 27 Dec	All buildings closed

Wed 28 Dec – Thu 29 Dec

Hartlepool Support Hub
8.30am – 5pm (by telephone or email only outside of Central Hub opening hours below – 01429 272905. Email helping@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Community Hub Central	10am – 4pm
Community Hub South	10am – 2pm
All other buildings	Closed

Fri 30 Dec

Hartlepool Support Hub
8.30am – 4.30pm (by telephone or email only outside of Central Hub opening hours below – 01429 272905. Email helping@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Community Hub Central	10am – 4pm
All other buildings	Closed

Sat 31 Dec

Community Hub Central	10am – 2pm
All other buildings	Closed

Sun 1 Jan – Mon 2 Jan

All buildings	Closed
Tue 3 Jan	Normal hours

Home Library Service

Finishes on Fri 23 Dec. Resumes Tue 3 Jan.
Tel – 07881 518166

Out of School Club (Oscars)

Closes at 6pm on Tue 20 Dec.
Reopens on Wed 4 Jan at 11.30am

Cemeteries and Crematorium

Fri 23 Dec	Last cremation or interment at 2pm (Stranton Cemetery office closes 2pm)
Sat 24 Dec – Tue 27 Dec	Stranton Cemetery office closed
Wed 28 Dec – Thu 29 Dec	Normal hours

Fri 30 Dec	Last cremation or interment at 2pm (Stranton Cemetery office closes 2pm)
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Sat 31 Dec – Mon 2 Jan	Stranton Cemetery office closed
Tue 3 Jan onwards	Normal hours

The Stranton Cemetery grounds and Book of Remembrance viewing room are open to visitors throughout the Christmas and New Year holidays between the hours of 8am and 4.30pm. In out of hours emergencies please call 01429 266522.

Out of Hours Emergencies

Emergency Duty Team and Children's Social Care – 01642 524552

Other services – 01429 266522

Welcome to the final edition of Hartbeat for 2022

As the year draws to a close, the biggest challenge facing households, businesses and other organisations across the Borough is the soaring cost of living.

As a Council, we understand the pressures local residents are facing and we are committed to helping wherever possible.

Read on page 8 about our plans for Warm Hubs, a network of safe, accessible public places where people can come together to stay warm, enjoy a bit of company and a cup of tea and, if they want, get practical tips and advice on saving energy costs and keeping safe and warm at home.

We have also pulled together a list of sources of help and support if you're struggling to make ends meet and you can read this on page 9.

The Council is no exception, and the current difficult economic situation is impacting directly on our financial position. You can read the latest budget update on pages 10 and 11.

As we continue to learn to live with Covid, it is important that people take up vaccinations when eligible and, likewise, we would encourage people to get their flu jabs. Go to page 28 for more information.

Despite the pressures we face, the Council continues to work hard to regenerate the town and create new facilities for the benefit of local residents.

Significant progress has been made on the £25m Hartlepool Town Deal with Government approval now in place for all five projects. There's more information on page 12. On the same page, read the tributes to former Hartlepool Town Deal Board Chair Alby Pattison following his recent sad death.

As we approach 2023, it is important to remember that there are still reasons to look to the future with optimism.

The development of Highlight, the town's new multi-million pound leisure centre, will take a major step forward with the appointment of a main contractor to build the flagship attraction. Read about this on page 13.

And work is continuing apace to prepare for the return of the world famous Tall Ships Races in July. Find out about a range of opportunities linked to the event on pages 16 and 17.

In the meantime, on behalf of everyone at Hartlepool Borough Council we would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Councillor Shane Moore
Leader of the Council



Denise McGuckin
Managing Director



Hartlepool Holiday Fun - Page 5



Railway station works - Page 14



Tall Ships update - Pages 16 - 17



Waterfront regeneration - Page 18



Fostering - Pages 24 - 25

Cover: Family Christmas pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk is heading to Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre – see page 4

Hartbeat is available in Braille and articles can be translated into other languages. For information please call (01429) 523578 or email communications@hartlepool.gov.uk

To advertise in Hartbeat please call (01429) 523578 or email communications@hartlepool.gov.uk

Let's get festive!

As we head towards Christmas, don't miss some great shows.

It's panto time!

Have you got your tickets yet for Jack and the Beanstalk, our fantastic Christmas family pantomime at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre from Tuesday 13th to Saturday 24th December?

AJ Theatrical Productions are back with a new twist on the classic fairytale. Join our hero Jack and his dotty mum Dame Tilly Trott as they are tricked into selling their beloved cow Daisy for a useless bag of beans.

Laugh along with Simple Simon, boo and hiss the evil Fleshcreep and cheer on Jack as he sets out to rescue his sweetheart Jill from the evil Giant's castle in the clouds!

Adult tickets are £22 (stage facing) and £18 (side balcony) and children's are £18 and £15. Book now at www.hartlepooltownhalltheatre.com – don't miss out!

Great gift ideas

Hartlepool Art Club is celebrating a major milestone with its 75th annual exhibition at Hartlepool Art Gallery.

Running until Saturday 14th January, this very popular event showcases the creativity and talent which has established the club's reputation as one of the leading art societies in the north of England.

On display will be a range of original artwork by club members, featuring a variety of techniques and subject matter.

It's a selling exhibition, so together with the gallery's Christmas shop it's a great opportunity to snap up some really unique and unusual handcrafted items, either as gifts or to treat yourself, at prices to suit all pockets.

The gallery is open Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am to 5pm, except for bank holidays, and entry is free. More details at www.culturehartlepool.com/art-gallery

A laugh a minute

One of the best nights out in Hartlepool, the Comedy Club Christmas Special comes to Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre on Saturday 17th December at 8pm.

You'll be howling at gags from the Hot Potato faves plus a string of the best up and coming comedy acts from up and down the land! On the bill are MC Matt Reed, JoJo Sutherland, Tal Davies and Andy Askins.

Not for the easily offended! Tickets are £14 from www.hartlepooltownhalltheatre.com



Panto laughs with Danny Posthill, Gary Martin Davis and Luke Adamson



Winter Scene by Rob Wilson



Matt Reed, Tal Davies, Andy Askins and JoJo Sutherland

#Hartlepool Holiday Fun

There's another fun-packed line-up of activities for children and young people in Hartlepool aged 4 to 16 to look forward to over the school Christmas holidays.

Multi-sports, forest fun, Harry Potter and Pokemon crafts, Christmas-themed activities, boxing, arts and crafts, mindfulness, trips to the pantomime, plus activities for children with special educational needs and disabilities are just some of what's in store ... and most of the activities are free!

It's all part of Hartlepool Holiday Fun – a project run by Hartlepool Borough Council in partnership with different organisations across the town and funded by the Department for Education – which provides activities for children and young people over the main school holidays throughout the year. As well as having a fantastic time they also get a tasty meal too.

Councillor Jim Lindridge, Chair of the Council's Children's Services Committee, said: "It's been another terrific year for Hartlepool Holiday Fun, with thousands of young people enjoying our action-packed activities, discovering new hobbies, making new friends and tucking into nutritious meals as well.

"There's lots more to come in our Christmas programme, with something for everyone to enjoy and not a chance of being bored over the school holidays.

"Hartlepool Holiday Fun here we come!"



For more information and to book places visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-holiday-fun

CHRISTMAS @THE HUBS

MONDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Adults' Festive Social Drop In | Headland Library | 10.30am - 11.30am

TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Christmas Crafts* | Greenbank | Stranton | TS24 7QT | 10am - 12noon

WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Christmas Crafts (Age 4+)* | CECA | King Oswy Drive | 10am - 12noon
 Make Christmas Cookies (Age 4+)* | Mill House Leisure Centre | 10am - 1pm
 Children's Christmas Crafts Drop In | Throston Grange Library | 12.30pm - 2pm

THURSDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Children's Christmas Crafts Drop In | Seaton Carew Library | 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Adults' Festive Social Drop In | Community Hub South | 1.30pm - 2.30pm

FRIDAY 23RD DECEMBER

Children's Christmas Crafts Drop In | Headland Library | 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Adults' Festive Social Drop In | Community Hub Central | 11am - 12noon

WEDNESDAY 28TH | THURSDAY 29TH | FRIDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Festive Social Drop In | Community Hub Central | 10am - 2pm each day

For activities marked * please contact the Jobs & Skills team on 01429 868616 to reserve a place. Entry free.

All the other activities are on a donation basis. This will enable us to continue providing similar activities in the future. Thank you for your support. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Visit our Hartlepool Community Hubs Facebook page for further activity updates. For enquiries call 01429 272905 or email community.hubs@hartlepool.gov.uk



HARTLEPOOL
COMMUNITY HUBS

HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Hartlepool Learning & Skills is now part of the Community Hubs!



JOBS
& SKILLS
@THE HUB

We're bringing our fantastic provision into the community to ensure that everyone across Hartlepool can easily access our range of services including:

Careers Service

Learning Opportunities

Qualifications

Workforce Development

Apprenticeships

Volunteering

Personal Development
Activities

Employment Support



We have a friendly team who can help you achieve your goals whether you want to gain new skills, socialise with other people, study for a qualification, become a volunteer or progress into your chosen career. You can find us within the Community Hubs:

Community Hub Central



124 York Road

TS26 9DE

Monday to Friday
(10am-4pm)*

Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts



King Oswy Drive

TS24 9PB

Monday & Wednesday
(10am-4pm)*

Community Hub South



Wynyard Road

TS25 3LQ

Tuesday & Thursday
(10am-4pm)*

You can also call our team on: 01429 868616 jobs.skills@hartlepool.gov.uk

or visit our pages on HartlepoolLearningandSkills @HartlepoolLSS HartlepoolLearningandSkills

*Normal opening times – see inside front page for Christmas and New Year opening times

Let's work together to bring Warm Hubs to Hartlepool



Hartlepool Borough Council is inviting public, private, health and voluntary organisations in Hartlepool to work with it to set up Warm Hubs across the town.

In response to the cost of living crisis, and specifically the increasing energy costs being faced by local people, the Council is keen to set up a network of the Hubs – safe, accessible public places where people can come together to stay warm, enjoy a bit of company and a cup of tea and, if they want, get practical tips and advice on saving energy costs and keeping safe and warm at home.

Organisations are invited to sign up now in the 'Warm Hubs' section at www.hartlepoolnow.co.uk, where there will be a map and directory showing all the places which have signed up to be Warm Hubs.

The Council's Community Hubs and libraries will be among the first Warm Hubs.

When they sign up, organisations will be asked to commit to the Hartlepool Warm Hubs Promise, so people know what to expect when they go into a Warm Hub.

This includes providing a safe and warm space for those who need it, being inclusive with equality, offering warmth without judgment and providing wider support opportunities as needed.

The Council has £10,000 of funding for the Warm Hubs scheme and will give the first 66 organisations which sign up £150 towards their setting up costs.

Councillor Bob Buchan, Chair of the Council's Adult and Community-Based Services Committee, said: "The cost of living crisis and the oncoming winter will place severe pressure on many people in Hartlepool and they will be forced to make tough decisions, including when they can heat their home.

"Hartlepool has a very strong community spirit and a proud reputation for helping those in need and Warm Hubs are a fantastic opportunity for organisations to come together once again, providing warmth, companionship, advice and support to people at this most challenging time."

Watch out for loan sharks this Christmas

Christmas can be a difficult time for some families and the added pressures of the current cost of living crisis may tempt some people into borrowing from a loan shark.

Watch out for the warning signs of loan sharks and report them if you are approached.

A loan shark might:

- Offer little or no paperwork on a loan, such as a credit agreement or record of payments.
- Refuse to give borrowers information, such as the interest rate or how much you owe.
- Take items as security, such as passports, bank cards and driving licence.
- Increase the debt or add additional charges at any time.
- Refuse to allow you to settle your debt.
- Get nasty, using intimidation, threats or violence.

If you're in the grip of a loan shark and need help over Christmas and New Year, contact the England Illegal Money Lending Team straight away any time of day or night.

You can talk to them in complete confidence and they will help.

Visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk or call 0300 555 2222

Hardship Advice and Support for Residents

As the cost of living soars, here is a guide to help that is available.

Help for Households campaign

Forty-one Government schemes offering help have been brought together at <https://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk>

Updated Government factsheet

This details the wide range of Government support packages and can be viewed at www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022

Money Navigator Tool

Access money and debt guidance via Money Helper UK's tool at www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/coronavirus/money-navigator-tool

Worrying about Money?

Visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/download/2281/worrying-about-money-leaflet for information about financial advice and support.

Fuel Debt Advice

Find out more about the Government's Energy Bills Support Scheme at www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer Get more information about the Warm Home Discount Scheme at www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-better-targeted-support-from-2022

The role of Ofgem as the independent energy regulator is to protect energy consumers, especially the vulnerable. www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/getting-help-if-you-cant-afford-your-energy-bills

The Energy Saving Trust is an independent organisation working to address the climate emergency and offers advice about how to make your home more energy efficient. www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/

NEA is a national fuel poverty charity, working to ensure that everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is warm and safe at home. www.nea.org.uk/advice-support/

Locally, advice on fuel - including help for eligible residents to access the Fuel Bank - can be obtained from Hartlepower on (01429) 806400, Advice@Hart on (01429) 748010 and Hartlepool Citizens Advice Bureau on (01429) 408401.

Household Support Fund

Councillors have approved the distribution of a further £993,000 from the Government's Household Support Fund. For more information go to www.hartlepool.gov.uk/household-support-fund

Universal Credit

You may be able to get Universal Credit if you are on a low income, out of work or you cannot work. www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit

Local Council Tax Support

To find out if you are eligible for Local Council Tax Support visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/counciltax If you are having difficulties paying your bill call (01429) 284166 or email recovery@hartlepool.gov.uk

Free School Meals

Call (01429) 284188 or visit https://hartlepool-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free_School_Meals_apply

Local Welfare Support

Local Welfare Support (LWS) is a limited discretionary fund managed by Hartlepool Borough Council to help residents stay in or return to their community or to give help in a crisis. www.hartlepool.gov.uk/local-welfare-support

Food Support

For more information visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7484/free_food_leaflet

If you need access to the The Trussell Trust Foodbank please contact the Local Welfare Support Team on (01429) 806895. The Bread and Butter Thing operates across Hartlepool, offering residents the chance to buy low-cost shopping. Visit www.breadandbutterthing.org/members If you are more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4 the healthy start scheme can help you buy healthy foods and get free vitamins www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Help with School Uniform

Hartlepool Uniform Recycling is based at the Belle Vue Centre in Kendal Road and open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am – 3pm.

The Council also runs a small fund donated by the late Elizabeth Trowsdale Norman and her family. Preference is given to applicants from Hartlepool's Victoria Ward - where Elizabeth was born and lived while she was at school. Call (01429) 806895 to apply.

Energy Efficiency Schemes

For the latest information and advice on energy efficiency schemes contact the Council at energy.encyency@hartlepool.gov.uk

The Government recently launched a Boiler Upgrade Grant Scheme. Visit www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-may-be-eligible-for-the-boiler-upgrade-scheme-from-april-2022

Anglian Water

Anglian Water can provide help for residents paying their bills dependent on their circumstances. www.hartlepool.gov.uk/downloads/file/7487/anglian_water_support

West View Advice and Resource Centre

Visit www.wvarc30.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

Visit www.citizensadvicehartlepool.org.uk

Turn2Us

Turn2Us is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially. Check your benefit entitlement at <https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk>

Balancing the Council's budget

Our current budget position

Hartlepool Borough Council is facing an estimated budget deficit of £9.7m over the next three years (2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26).

This reflects the severe impact of high inflation.

Many councils are making in-year cuts to their budgets, but we have decided not to. Instead, we will be using reserves to protect services in the current year. However, this situation isn't sustainable.

The Government limits Council Tax increases, including the Adult Social Care Precept. For 2023/24 the limit is 5%

We will need to carefully consider whether to implement this increase - a very difficult choice given the severe financial pressures faced by households. Our dilemma is that if we don't, bigger service cuts will be needed.

Managing the deficit

We are proposing to phase it over more than one year. This will be achieved by using £3m of reserves and £1m of temporary investment income. However we will still need to make savings in 2023/24 of nearly £4.1m, at least £4.6m in 2024/25 and £1m in 2025/26. These figures may increase if inflation does not fall as forecast.

Initial saving proposals for 2023/24 are set out in the adjacent table and aim to minimise the impact on services. These will be considered by councillors over the next few months.

2023/24 Savings Proposals	£'000s
Reducing inflation provision	740
Staffing structures and reducing vacant posts	420
Efficiency savings	460
More flexible use of grants/increased income	400
New fees and charges	510
Service cuts	820

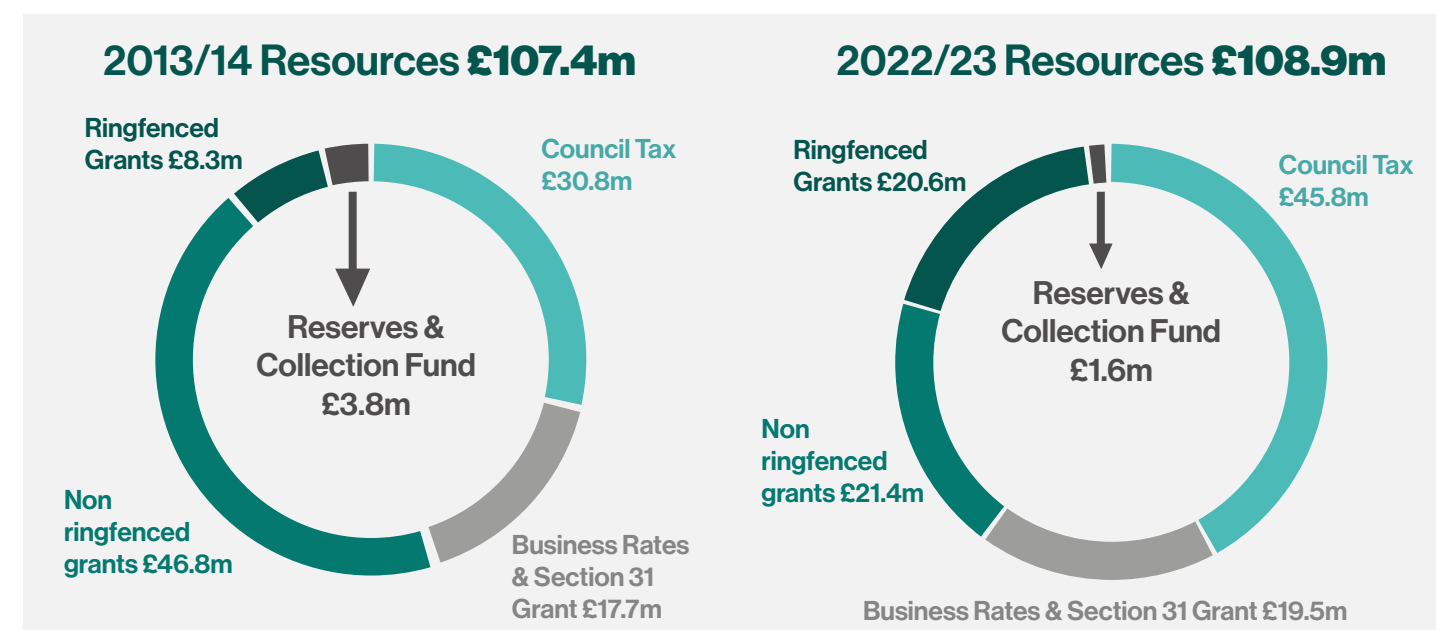
Why are we in this position?

Councils have faced years of funding cuts, and Hartlepool Borough Council's budget has not kept pace with inflation. If it had, we would have approximately £30m more in the current year.

As shown below, the amount of resources for local services in Hartlepool for 2022/23 of £108.9m is

not much more than it was in 2013/14 when it was £107.4m. This means we have had to become more efficient and prioritise services. Our workforce has also been reduced by 20%.

Over this period, the Council's reliance on Council Tax to pay for local services increased from 29% (£30.8m) of resources in 2013/14 to 42% (£45.8m) in 2022/23.



Impact of inflation on other taxes

Whatever, the actual increase in Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept, we all notice it as we receive a bill – which probably makes Council Tax the most visible tax we pay.

Other taxes increase automatically in line with inflation and are harder to see. For example, if inflation increases the cost of something by £100 the additional VAT is £20. Few of us notice VAT when we pay for the goods. Similarly, the Government has frozen income tax thresholds with no increase for inflation. If you receive a pay rise you will pay more income tax – yet you may not notice this.

Would cutting regeneration expenditure improve the situation?

The Council's investment in major regeneration schemes is not directly funded from Council Tax. Many of the schemes are either fully, or partly, funded from specific grants, which have to be repaid if they are not used for their intended purpose. Stopping these schemes would simply see the money go elsewhere in the country.

The Council is running a consultation on its budget proposals and we welcome your views.



yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/balancing-the-budget



Tribute paid to “pillar of the community” Alby Pattison

Civic leaders have paid tribute to former Hartlepool Town Deal Board Chair Alby Pattison following his sad death.

Alby was former owner and Managing Director of town-based Hart Biologicals.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, said: “Alby was an outstanding flag bearer for Hartlepool and its people, from the instrumental role he played as Chair of the Hartlepool Town Deal Board in securing millions of pounds of Government funding to transform our town, to his inspiring leadership in business and his massive commitment to sport, especially rugby.

“He was someone to whom the term “pillar of the community” could truly be applied – a fact acknowledged

when the distinction of Honorary Freeman of the Borough was bestowed upon him.”

Alby was made a Freeman in 2017 and was awarded an MBE for services to local business and charitable work. He was also a Deputy Lieutenant of County Durham.

He was heavily involved in local sport through Hartlepool Rovers FC and Seaton Carew Cricket Club, and served as a Governor at High Tunstall College of Science and Grange Primary School and a Trustee at Ad Astra Academy Trust.

Denise McGuckin, Managing Director of the Council, added: “Alby was a passionate and dedicated ambassador for Hartlepool and we will remember him for his outstanding contribution to Hartlepool Town Deal and the town as a whole. He is greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family.”

Fifth Hartlepool Town Deal project approved

The Government has given the go-ahead for the fifth and final Hartlepool Town Deal project.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities approved the reimagining of Middleton Grange Shopping Centre after considering a detailed business case.

Ministers had already approved the four other projects which make up the £25m Hartlepool Town Deal - connectivity improvements between The Waterfront, the town centre and Seaton Carew; the renovation of the former Wesley Chapel; and health and social care and civil engineering skills academies.

The way is now clear for work to start on all five projects.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, said: “I am absolutely delighted that we now have approval for all five Town Deal projects.

“We are really excited to now be in a position to push on with all of the projects, and we look forward as a Town Deal board to sharing even more information about them as soon as possible.”

Darren Hankey, Vice-Chair of the Hartlepool Town Deal Board, added: “This is great news for the town. All of Hartlepool’s five Town Deal projects have received formal approval from the Government which is testament to the work of the Town Deal Board and the wider range of organisations helping to deliver the Town Investment Plan.

“We now need the investment to follow so we can get on with the important work of delivering these projects, growing our skills base and enhancing our wonderful town.”



More progress on development of Highlight

The development of Highlight, the town's new multi-million pound leisure centre, is set to take a further step forward in the New Year.

The first phase of the process for appointing a main contractor who will build the flagship attraction, commenced in October and the second phase is currently live.

It is anticipated that the evaluation of submissions will take place early in the New Year, with a view to appointing a main contractor in spring and starting work on site next summer.

Highlight is to be built at The Waterfront and will replace Mill House Leisure Centre which opened in 1972. Planning permission was granted in July.

The building has been designed by GT3 Architects and its strong linear lines are inspired by the railway tracks which ran from local timber and coal yards into the former dockland sites during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Meanwhile, the Council has renewed its appeal for people to share their memories of Mill House Leisure Centre over the years. It hopes they might have old photos or vivid memories of fun times that they are happy to write down and send in.

Many thanks to those of you who have already responded to the appeal, you have told us some great stories. We hope to use the material you have provided to stage an exhibition in due course. You can send your memories of Mill House to millhousememories@hartlepool.gov.uk



By shopping local you are giving two gifts

This Christmas

Not only do you find a unique and charming gift for a loved one but you also give a gift to your community, by boosting the economy and creating local jobs.

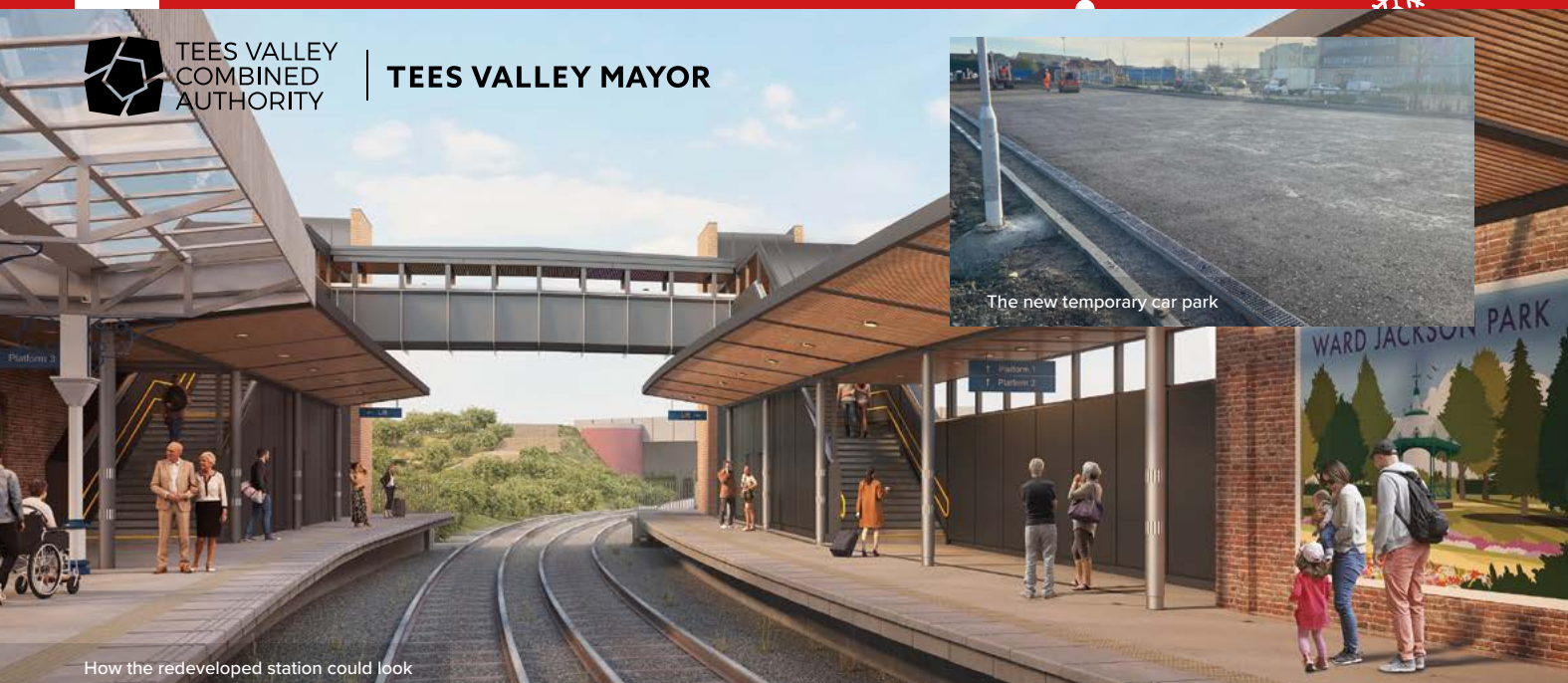
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TEES VALLEY
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

TEES VALLEY MAYOR



How the redeveloped station could look

FULL STEAM AHEAD ON HARTLEPOOL STATION'S REDEVELOPMENT WORK

In October the piling for the second platform began, following the demolition of the disused platform 3. Construction has now commenced on the pit for the new lift, and also on the footbridge stairs, alongside the demolition of part of the station's wall to allow for the installation of the lift and bridge.

The scheme, being led by Story Contracting, will provide more capacity to enable future service for routes including those between London and Sunderland operated by Grand Central.

The development will also provide a potential boost to Northern services which connect Hartlepool with Middlesbrough, Newcastle and other major towns on the Durham Coast rail line. The Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority has signed off £12million in funding for the project,

backing the aims of the Hartlepool Mayoral Development Corporation.

The MDC aims to reshape the town to make it a more attractive place to live and visit, support small businesses and deliver a master plan to maximise future funding.

The station upgrades, supported by Network Rail, Northern Trains Limited, Grand central and Hartlepool Borough Council, are due to be complete in time for the Tall Ships coming to the town in July 2023.



Piling work continues for the new platform

The update comes following the appointment of board members for the Hartlepool Development Corporation. Chaired by Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen, it will include Hartlepool Borough Council Leader Shane Moore, Learning Curve Group's CEO Brenda McLeish OBE; the Commercial Director of construction firm Strabag Lisa Molloy; Orangebox Training Solutions CEO Simon Corbett and HMB Accountants Director Sarah Bedford.

Cleveland Police's Crime Commissioner Steve Turner will sit on both boards as a full member, joined by Cleveland Police Chief Constable Mark Webster, Combined Authority Chief Executive Julie Gilhespie and Hartlepool Borough Council Managing Director Denise McGuckin as associate members.

Depot demolition is further landmark in housing plans

Hartlepool Borough Council's push to create more new homes for affordable rent has reached a further milestone with the demolition of its former depot in Lynn Street.

Together with the recent demolition of the nearby former Market Hotel and the upcoming demolition of the Council drug and alcohol centre in Whitby Street, it paves the way for building a total of 48 Council-owned properties – 4, 3 and 2 bedroom houses and 2 bedroom bungalows.

The development comes within the Innovation and Skills Quarter.

The £1.85m demolition and remediation work on the sites is being funded from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Brownfield Housing Fund administered by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority.

Construction of the new homes – which is expected to start in the

spring - is being funded by the Council with the help of £1.87m grant support from Homes England.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of the Council, said: "We are committed to supporting and encouraging the provision of affordable Council-owned housing across the borough and this is the second fully-owned housing regeneration scheme we will have delivered recently. We're really looking forward to the start of construction."

Bev Bearne, the Council's Assistant Director (Development and Growth), added: "We're bringing a residential offer to an area which is likely to see significant development alongside the provision of the new Northern Film and TV Studios.

"So we're really excited to see how the two elements dovetail together and how residents benefit from all the opportunities we are delivering, not just from housing but in terms of jobs and growth of the economy."



The former depot during demolition

Have your say on Hartlepool Parking Strategy

Residents, businesses and visitors are being invited to comment on a draft parking strategy for Hartlepool covering the period 2022-2032.

Hartlepool Borough Council is currently running an eight-week online consultation using its digital consultation and engagement platform Your Say Our Future.

The consultation runs until January 6th 2023 and can be accessed at <https://yoursay.hartlepool.gov.uk/hartlepool-parking-strategy-2022-2032> The full draft Hartlepool Parking Strategy can also be viewed via this link. Paper copies

of the survey can be requested by calling (01429) 523100.

The parking strategy covers a range of issues, including supply and demand for parking, safety, security, quality of provision and the use of new technology.

It also explores the links between parking and land use, and the delivery of local and regional transport plans.

Sylvia Pinkney, Hartlepool Borough Council's Assistant Director (Regulatory Services), said: "A new ten-year parking strategy is a key tool in reducing congestion, improving access for people and tackling travel safety which, in turn, will improve people's quality of life."

Following the closure of the consultation, all comments received will be reported to the Council's Neighbourhood Services Committee which is responsible for approving and adopting the strategy.



Are you up for the voyage of a lifetime?

As we count down the months to the world famous Tall Ships returning to Hartlepool in July 2023, we're looking for 100 young people aged 15-24 to represent the town in next year's Tall Ships Races.

You don't need any sailing experience for this fabulous, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – as a Sail Trainee you'll be an integral part of the team, under the wing of an experienced English-speaking crew

There are two race options to choose from:

Race 1: Den Helder, Holland to Hartlepool
1st – 8th July 2023

Race 2: Hartlepool to Fredrikstad, Norway
8th – 17th July 2023

Catherine Honey, Hartlepool Borough Council's Event Director Tall Ships 2023, said: "This truly is the trip of a lifetime!

"You'll be part of a great team, taking the helm, hoisting the sails, cooking for the crew, climbing the masts, looking for dolphins and spending the night watches observing the stars and getting to know your new friends.

"When you reach your destination you'll be welcomed by the host port with a major event to celebrate the Tall Ships Race, with music stages, world food markets, fireworks and more!

"Every host port arranges a fantastic Crew Parade allowing you and your team to dress up and celebrate your achievements and to top it off there'll be a fantastic crew party on your last night before the ships head off on the next race the following day.

"It's a marvellous experience and you'll make new friends from all over the world and learn a host of skills for life."

The cost per person for Race 1 is £1,000 and Race 2 is £1,200. Advice is available from the Hartlepool Tall Ships Team on fundraising and seeking sponsorship support.

If you're 15-24, live in the borough of Hartlepool and are interested in taking part, visit www.tallshipshartlepool2023.co.uk for more information and to complete an application form. If you're under 18 you must have your parents' permission.

HARTLEPOOL THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2023



Come and join us!

The Tall Ships Races 2022 is a great opportunity for businesses from Hartlepool and across the wider North-East.

We intend to have vendors and traders located across the event site, so please get in touch if you want to be a part of the biggest free family event in England.

Vendors and Traders

Whilst the event site is still evolving, we'd like to hear from you – whatever your area of business - so that we can then share information with you to see where it would be best for you to be located.

We aim to deliver a range of quality vending stalls and attractions, including:

- Food and catering
- Local produce
- Arts and crafts
- Technology
- Sustainability and Net Zero
- Entertainers
- Seasonal products
- Maritime and seaside

Get in touch by visiting www.tallshipshartlepool2023.co.uk clicking on the Businesses tab and filling in the form in the Traders and Vendors section.

Sponsorship

There are also opportunities for businesses to get involved as sponsors. The many benefits of being a sponsor include an audience reach of millions, underscoring your community position, helping to realise special youth opportunities, benefiting from and giving unique experiences, having your own niche within the event, hosting on a stunning tall ship and creating a meaningful profile and legacy.

We aim to create opportunities that reflect your business values and drivers, and we won't rely on off-the-shelf one-size-fits-all packages.

Hartlepool Tall Ships brings a wealth of positive themes and messages with it. We can tie these themes to your sponsorship depending upon what resonates with your company.

Themes include sustainability & net zero, civic pride, community engagement, adventure, achievement, partnerships, teamwork, friendship, youth, opportunity and shared futures.

These will come to life as part of events and initiatives taking place on the Tall Ships Races 2023 site and beyond, including:

- The Sail Trainee Youth Programme
- The Community Volunteer Programme
- Sustainability events and zone
- Schools and education outreach
- Displays
- Food markets
- Hospitality and VIP receptions
- Business networking
- Deck parties on tall ships
- The International Crew Parade
- Entertainment stages
- Arts and Activities Programme
- The Farewell 'Parade of Sail'
- Public open ships

If any of these sound interesting to you, visit www.tallshipshartlepool2023.co.uk click on the Businesses tab and fill in the form in the Sponsorship Opportunities section.



Hospitality

The visiting Tall Ships make amazing venues and will be available for extraordinary corporate hospitality on board. From small groups to very large. Get in touch through the website.

Waterfront regeneration presses ahead

Three important elements in the regeneration of the Hartlepool Waterfront have moved a step closer to being realised.

Hartlepool borough councillors have agreed a preferred option for the repair and restoration of the paddle steamer Wingfield Castle and for repairs to the dam board of the dry dock at the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

They have also given the go-ahead for plans to continue to be developed for the refurbishment of the Museum of Hartlepool.

The Wingfield Castle is part of the National Historic Fleet, as well as being recorded on the National Register of Historic Ships alongside such illustrious names as the Mary Rose, Cutty Sark and HMS Victory.

The Council's Finance and Policy Committee has agreed that the paddle steamer will be repaired in dry dock and then refloated, retaking her place as a key feature of the Museum of Hartlepool.

Emergency repairs to the vessel at her current mooring will begin in the new year, with the wider repairs and restoration phased in over the next two years.

The final year of restoration would require the Wingfield Castle to be dry docked in the Trincomalee Dock, with HMS Trincomalee temporarily floated out. To enable this, repairs will be needed to the dock's dam board.

Councillors also gave the green light for more work to be done on proposals for the Museum of Hartlepool including renovating the exhibition spaces to showcase new displays telling the story of Hartlepool, improving access to the museum and developing learning and community facilities for families and events.

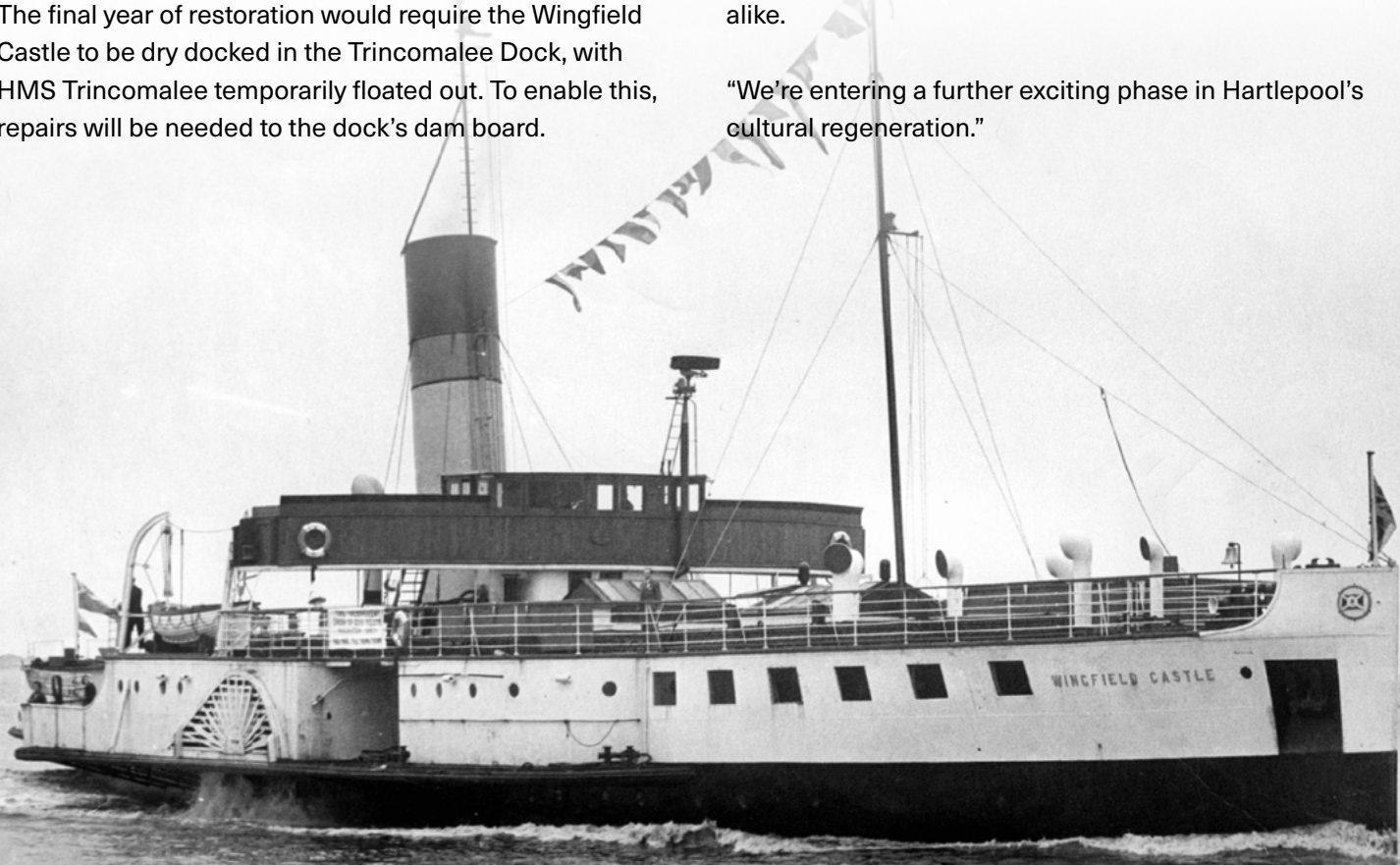
The projects – which fall within the Council's Waterfront Regeneration Programme – are part of a wider capital programme primarily funded by the Tees Valley Combined Authority and external funding.

Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council and Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee, said: "The Wingfield Castle is a much-loved feature of Hartlepool and an important part of our cultural heritage.

"I'm delighted that we are now on a firm course towards her restoration, so that she can take her rightful place in the wider development of the Hartlepool Waterfront into a landmark visitor destination."

Councillor Bob Buchan, Chair of the Council's Adult and Community-Based Services Committee, added: "We're also very pleased to see work progressing well on proposals to revitalise the Museum of Hartlepool, another very popular destination for Hartlepool people and visitors alike.

"We're entering a further exciting phase in Hartlepool's cultural regeneration."



Come and work with us!



Have you considered coming to work for your Council?

We are one of Hartlepool's largest employers and offer permanent, fixed term and casual work on a part-time or full-time basis. We also offer a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities.

Opportunities range from homecare, finance, leisure, social work, culture, engineering, catering and cleaning to business support, HGV drivers, passenger transport and trades such as electrical, gas, plumbing and joinery, to name but a few.

We aim to attract the best people, to continue to make Hartlepool a great place to live, work and visit. It is vital that our employees are well rewarded, and when you work with us you have access to a wide range of employee

benefits designed to attract, motivate and retain the very best people.

These include a career average pension scheme with employer contributions, family-friendly policies such as emergency dependents and bereavement leave and professional, apprenticeship and personal development opportunities.

We offer a good work-life balance with flexible and hybrid working opportunities, occupational health services and access to a discount scheme for savings on some everyday purchases.

Interested? Here's a personal perspective from one of our team ...

Lisa's story

Lisa Rayner started working for the Council two years ago, following in her father's footsteps.

"My dad Paul worked for the Council all his life and really enjoyed it, and I wanted to work for the Council too," says Lisa, who is 37 and was born and lives in Hartlepool.

Previously a community staff nurse, Lisa joined the Council as a newly qualified Health Visitor and helps deliver the Healthy Child Programme, supporting and advising families from pre-natal to age 5.

"The work is very rewarding and I'm part of a very friendly team with a really supportive manager," adds Lisa.

"We have great access to training – there are lots of opportunities to develop your skills and knowledge.

"As a qualified nurse I have to pay the Nursing and Midwifery Council subscription and the Council reimburses me for that.

Other staff benefits make a big difference too.

"The Council is very family friendly. Having three children, the flexible working and flexi-time schemes are really useful if you need to start work a bit later or need to spend some quiet time at home writing reports.

"When one of my children was ill, being able to get emergency dependents leave was a big help too.

"We get a good amount of annual leave which increases after five years of continuous service, and I also want to mention the discounts I get on everyday items through the discount scheme.

"Coming to work for Hartlepool Borough Council has been a really good decision for me – I'd certainly advise others to consider it too."



To find out more about our latest vacancies and employee benefits visit

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/careers

Tackling violent crime to make Hartlepool safer

A major new initiative has been launched to make Hartlepool town centre safer for visitors and employees of pubs, clubs, restaurants and takeaways

The Hartlepool Community Safety Team has received Serious Violence Funding of £31,000 from Cleveland's violence reduction partnership CURV for a project that aims to reduce violence and knife crime in the night time economy around the town centre.

Statistics relating to June this year show that of nine serious offences recorded in the area, three were at licensed premises.

The Hartlepool Night Time Economy Safety Campaign will run until March next year, and the Hartlepool Community Safety Team which comprises staff from Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police and Cleveland Fire Brigade, will work closely with the Hartlepool Licensee Association and the Hartlepool Town Pastors, a charity operated by unpaid volunteers which operates weekend evening and night-time patrols to ensure revellers get home safely.

The funding will be used for the following measures:

- Glass covers/bottle stoppers to prevent drink spiking.
- Drink spiking test strips.
- Hand-held metal detector wands to enable door supervisors to check for knives.
- Bleed control kits that can be used to provide emergency treatment to persons with traumatic bleeding injuries.
- Two knife amnesty bins in the market place car park and the Hartlepool Transport Interchange.
- Additional safeguarding training for licensed premises staff.
- Support for the on-going work of the Hartlepool CCTV control room.
- Awareness-raising messaging.



(Left-right) Sylvia Pinkney, Hartlepool Borough Council's Assistant Director (Regulatory Services); Councillor Shane Moore, Nicholas Stone, Hartlepool Borough Council's Neighbourhood Safety Team Leader

Councillor Shane Moore, Chair of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, said: "I am very pleased that we have been awarded this funding, and I would like to thank Cleveland PCC Steve Turner for supporting our efforts to make a Hartlepool a safer place to live, work and visit.

"We want a night out in Hartlepool to be a pleasant and enjoyable experience and, hopefully, this campaign will help to ensure that is the case.

"Pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants, takeaways and taxis operating within the night time economy- area will also benefit from a potential increase in customers due to the public having a reduced fear of crime and a lesser chance of becoming a victim of crime."

Cleveland PCC Steve Turner who chairs the CURV partnership to reduce violent crime in Cleveland, added: "A successful and lively night-time economy is important to every town, however we must recognise the links with violent crime and identify ways to prevent possible harm.

"Hartlepool has some of the most effective partnership working in Cleveland, so I'm delighted that agencies are joining forces to improve safety in the town centre at night.

"It was an impressive proposal and I'm keen to use learning from this project to inform how we make the night-time economy safer across Cleveland."



Cleveland PCC Steve Turner

Do you, or someone you know, need help with drug or alcohol addiction this festive season?

START, Hartlepool's substance misuse service, offers confidential advice and support.

Call (01429) 285000, email substancemisuse@hartlepool.gov.uk or simply drop in to our Whitby Street base.



**Carolyn
Tilly**

Managing Partner
Tilly Bailey & Irvine

I am Carolyn Tilly, Managing Partner of Tilly Bailey & Irvine Law Firm and a member of its experienced Wills, Probate and Elderly Client Department.

I am often asked by clients whether setting up a Family Trust would be a good idea for them. The answer is often yes, as there are lots of advantages to setting up a Family Trust.

A Trust ensures security and protection for your assets and can make things as simple as possible for your family to deal with when you die. In fact, the need for Probate is often avoided altogether, which may help keep the costs of dealing with your estate down if the proposed rise in probate fees comes into force – this has been widely published in the press as a new *stealth tax*.

A Family Trust provides full protection for your beneficiaries, even if circumstances have changed. An example would be where your spouse or children (including adult children) have disabilities or lose capacity to deal with their own affairs.

It also protects against your children being disinherited as a result of your spouse remarrying after your death. Your chosen Trustees can deal with the property in the Trust in the same way as Attorneys would under a Power of Attorney.

“It is important to take advice from solicitors specialising in this area of law”

Since it would be your Trustees who control the capital of the Trust Fund, including your house, these assets should not in normal circumstances, be taken into account in the assessment of your means for contribution to the cost of any residential care fees or other means tested benefits. However, your solicitor will need to give you individual advice as to how the regulations about care fees would affect you.

If you are considering setting up a Family Trust, it is important to take advice from solicitors specialising in this area of law.

Tilly Bailey & Irvine have a team of legal experts and offer free initial advice regarding Property Trusts and Wills, all to help you decide what is best for you.

How much will it cost?

We charge a fixed fee, so there are no hidden surprises.

Contact us on **01429 264101** or visit our offices in Hartlepool, Wynyard, Stockton or Barnard Castle for the best support, and start feeling more secure!

Tilly Bailey & Irvine LLP

T: 01429 264101

W: www.tbilaw.co.uk

York Chambers | York Road | Hartlepool | TS26 9DP

12 Evolution | Wynyard Park | Wynyard | TS22 5TB

Castle House | 11 Bridge Road | Stockton-on-Tees | TS13 3AD

8 Newgate | Barnard Castle | DL12 8NG

Tilly Bailey & Irvine LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.



#StrengthOnYourSide

Primary school place applications open

Applications for school places for children due to start primary school in Hartlepool next September are now being taken.

The closing date for all applications - either online or paper - is 15th January 2023.

Letters providing more information were sent to parents via their child's nursery school, but where a child does not attend a private or mainstream nursery (or if a letter was not received by the end of November) then parents need to register their child with Hartlepool Borough Council's School Admissions Team at the Hartlepool Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) in Brierton Lane. They can contact the team by telephoning (01429) 523765 or emailing admissionsteam@hartlepool.gov.uk

The team is also able to provide more information about the school admissions process.

The easiest way to apply for a school place is online at: **www.hartlepool.gov.uk/schooladmissions**

Alternatively, parents can fill in a paper form that is available from all primary schools, while forms can also be requested from the School Admissions Team.

Parents will learn the outcome of their applications on 17th April 2023 (the next working day following 16th April 2023) – and any appeals will be heard during June/July 2023.



Over 50 Exciting Part-Time Adult Courses

We have an exciting range of courses starting from January, at our Peterlee campuses and the Houghall campus in Durham, many of which are **FREE**. From floristry to French, barbering to welding, life drawing to DIY decorating - **scan the QR code to check out all the options.**



Improve your English & Maths Skills for FREE

Our Functional Skills classes in maths and English will help you to work in a focused manner, and all students take nationally recognised qualifications, to help improve your confidence and boost your CV. Plus, we offer maths and English GCSEs too.

Completely FREE if you don't already have a grade 4/C at GCSE/O-Level in maths/English.

**APPLY TODAY
SCAN ME!**



FREE Distance Learning Courses

With our wide range of **distance learning courses** you can gain fully-accredited level 2 and level 3 qualifications in many different subjects from the comfort of your own home! And **the great news is these courses are fully-funded, meaning they're totally FREE to any student who completes the course! Some eligibility criteria apply.**

**APPLY TODAY
SCAN ME!**



Access to Higher Education Courses Starting September 2023

Change your life with an Access to Higher Education Diploma - which enable you to progress onto a degree level course at uni or college.

We offer three exciting pathways:
Nursing & Midwifery, Science and Humanities.

**APPLY TODAY
SCAN ME!**



For details, please call the **Student Services Team** on **0191 518 8222** or email **enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk**



CREATING OUTSTANDING FUTURES

edc.ac.uk



There's never been a better time to be a foster carer in Hartlepool

Have you ever considered becoming a foster carer for Hartlepool Borough Council?

Caring, loving homes are urgently needed for children and young people in the Council's care – especially those aged 12 and over.

There's never been a better time to start fostering, as there's now more support than ever.

In an exciting development, the Council's Fostering Team is now working in partnership with The Fostering Network to deliver the Mockingbird programme.

Mockingbird, a global award-winning and pioneering programme, delivers sustainable foster care.

It's structured around the support and relationships an extended family provides.

It nurtures the relationships between children, young people and foster families, supporting them to build a resilient and caring community of six to ten foster families called a constellation.

At the centre of each constellation is a hub home carer – an experienced foster carer supported by a liaison worker from the Fostering service – who provides constant support and mentoring to the foster carers.

This ranges from planned and emergency support care and sleepovers to training and regular social events for the foster families, strengthening the community.



Paul Reynolds, Hartlepool Borough Council's Mockingbird Lead, said: "We're very proud to launch our first Mockingbird constellation in partnership with The Fostering Network.

"Mockingbird brings all the strengths and benefits of an extended family – including support and encouragement for one another and having someone at the end of the phone for advice 24 hours a day – plus training and other opportunities.

"It strengthens the relationships between everyone involved and greatly improves the stability of fostering placements.

"When you combine that with a good financial package and the support of a dedicated supervising worker from our support team, it really is a great time to become a foster carer in Hartlepool.

"Please also don't forget that there's no such thing as a 'typical' foster carer, so don't rule yourself out, whatever your age, background or circumstances – we'd love to hear from you."

Meet our first hub home carers



Joyce and Joe Melrose

Hartlepool's first Mockingbird constellation has Joyce and Joe Melrose as its hub home carers.

Joyce, a retired teaching assistant, and Joe, a former steelworker, have been foster carers for Hartlepool Borough Council for more than 12 years and have a wealth of experience.

"It really is the best time to become a foster carer for Hartlepool Borough Council," says Joyce.

"For first time carers just knowing you have someone to help, support and advise you makes all the difference."

Joe adds: "We are at the end of the phone for advice, support or just a comfort chat at any time, or we can be there at the drop of a hat if you need a bit of a hand – for example picking the kids up from school one day."

Joyce and Joe also have two bedrooms available if for any reason children from the foster families need to come for a sleepover.

"For the child it's a bit like going to stay with granny," says Joyce. "For the foster parents it can give them a breather or time out if they need to attend an event."

The foster families in Hartlepool's first Mockingbird constellation have all met and the children know each other too and are already forming friendships.

"Each month we do an activity day with the children, which they all really enjoy," says Joyce. "They've also made door plaques with their name on for when they come for a sleepover."

"Fostering is hugely rewarding – seeing the difference you make to a child's life is second-to-none.

"If you're thinking about it, go and have a chat with the Fostering team – there's no pressure and you'll have plenty of time to decide. Give it a go."

To find out more about being a foster carer for Hartlepool Borough Council, visit

 www.hartlepool.gov.uk/fostering

 01429 405588

 fosterandadopt@hartlepool.gov.uk



Your Council Round-Up

Throston by-election

Cameron Sharp (Labour Party) has been elected as a Hartlepool Borough Councillor following a by-election in the Throston ward on October 13th.

The by-election was called following the resignation of Amy Price.

The full result was:

Jamie Horton (Independent) – 280

Barry McKinstry (Liberal Democrat) – 32

Cameron Sharp (Labour Party) - 450

Jack Waterman (Conservative Party) – 124

The turnout was 14.6%.

A further by-election took place in the Foggy Furze ward back on September 8th which saw Carole Thompson (Labour Party) elected following the resignation of Stephen Picton as a Councillor.

To find out more about either election go to www.hartlepool.gov.uk/elections

For more information about your local Councillors go to www.hartlepool.gov.uk/councillors

For contact details of Parish Clerks go to www.hartlepool.gov.uk/parish-clerks

Details of Councillors' ward surgeries can be found at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/ward-surgeries

Making Council services more accessible



A new system is being introduced by Hartlepool Borough Council's Customer Services Team to enable more effective communication with deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired people.

Relay UK allows for faster and more fluent conversations between parties by using the latest app technology.

All users need to do to be able to access the service is download the Relay UK app on their mobile, tablet, computer, or use a textphone. The telephone number to contact Customer Services is 01429 803074.

Relay UK is run by BT on behalf of all UK landline and mobile phone providers. It's free to use the service and users will only pay normal charges for any calls made.

Julie Howard, Hartlepool Borough Council's Digital and Customer Services Manager, said: "This reflects our on-going commitment as an authority to make our services as accessible as possible."

For more information about Relay UK visit www.relayuk.bt.com

We must never forget and always learn

People of all ages are invited to share in a poignant day-long programme of online events on Friday 27th January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The programme has been organised by young people in Hartlepool aged 13-16 with support from Hartlepool Youth Services and aims to promote tolerance and the need to value difference and diversity.

The theme this year is 'Ordinary People,' which has various interpretations including how the lives of ordinary individuals have been affected by genocide and how ordinary people can make a difference by standing up for others facing persecution and discrimination.

Throughout the day from 10am the young people will be sharing their work on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hartlepoolyouthservices.

There will be speeches, information on hate crime and a look at a school and community portrait project commemorating ordinary people who have made a difference by taking a stand.

There will also be an exploration of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's Ordinary Objects, Extraordinary Journeys website, which uses ordinary items to chart how individual lives were impacted by the Holocaust, and a look at craft projects made by young people influenced by the website.

The event will conclude with an invitation to people to join in a candle lighting ceremony.

For more information about the event contact Rachael Garlick on rachael.garlick@hartlepool.gov.uk or 01429 273741.



Funding available for FREE energy-efficiency measures for your household

The Sustainable Warmth Scheme is a Government initiative from which Hartlepool Borough Council was delighted to secure almost £2 million to help homes across the town become greener, whilst also reducing energy bills.

The scheme aims to tackle fuel poverty and help the most vulnerable by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, reducing energy bills (or off-setting increasing energy costs), and making homes warmer whilst improving residents' general health and wellbeing.

Some of the energy saving measures available through the scheme include:

- Air source heat pump systems which will provide 3kw of energy for every 1kw used, making it a more efficient way to heat your home
- Double glazing to replace single glazing
- Replacing old storage heaters with high retention storage heaters. These will retain heat longer, and give you more control, making them more efficient to run

The Sustainable Warmth Scheme is open to homeowners with a gross household income of under £30,000 and who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Being a Hartlepool Borough Council resident
- You must own your home or be a private tenant
- Your home must be either a property with no gas central heating and have an EPC energy rating of D, E, F or G. For those properties with gas central heating, we are now only accepting EPC energy rating E, F or G

To apply or to see if you qualify for **FREE** energy efficiency upgrades visit

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/sustainable-warmth or call our contact centre on 01429 523333.



DON'T FORGET YOUR JABS!

COVID-19 and flu spread more quickly in winter and can cause serious illness.

Also, protection provided by COVID-19 vaccines decreases over time and flu viruses can change every year.

So, if you're 50 or over, in an at-risk group or pregnant, for your best protection boost your immunity now with the flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster.

Many children are also eligible for a free flu vaccine.

Find out if you're eligible at [nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations) and book now.

Parents are also being urged to protect their children

against a range of life-threatening diseases by following the National Immunisation Programme.

Children will be offered a series of immunisations in school, including the nasal flu vaccination, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) first and second doses and diphtheria/tetanus/polio and meningitis ACWY in 2 injections.

Before each immunisation, parents must complete an e-consent form which will be sent via their child's school. Paper consents are available – please ask your school.

For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations

Hartlepool Restaurant Week to return again

Restaurants, cafes and pubs in Hartlepool are being invited to take part in the third Hartlepool Restaurant Week.

The campaign – which is led by Hartlepool Borough Council's Economic Growth Team and promotes and celebrates the town's eateries – has proved so popular that it's returning again from Monday 30th January to Sunday 5th February.

Businesses wanting to take part will once again be required to develop a specific Restaurant Week menu or special offers within their existing menu at the set prices of either £5, £10, £15 or £20. They can choose the price points which suit them.

The menus and offers will then be promoted in advance through a dedicated Hartlepool Restaurant Week web page and marketing campaign.



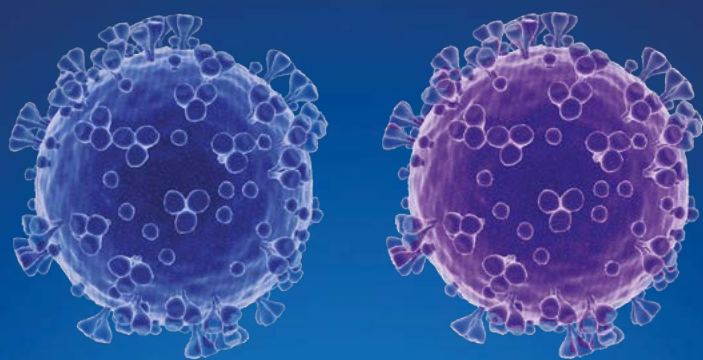
Councillor Mike Young, Chair of the Council's Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee, said: "The last two Restaurant Weeks in January and October were a tremendous success and we've received lots of really great comments from businesses and customers alike.

"So we're losing no time in organising a third one for people to look forward to in the New Year.

"As the cost of living crisis continues to bite, it's another great opportunity for people to enjoy some unbeatable fixed-price menus and support our fantastic restaurants, cafes and pubs."

Any venue interested in being involved in Hartlepool Restaurant Week should email tourism@hartlepool.gov.uk

NHS



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Get both vaccines if you're eligible

#GetVaccinatedGetProtected

6 Ways You Can Support local businesses This Christmas

Pop to a local store

Recommend a friend

Eat in a local cafe or restaurant

Buy from a local retailer online

Share their social media posts

Discover a new business
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Elephant Rock wins a series of prestigious awards

Celebrations are underway after Hartlepool's Elephant Rock was crowned the national winner of the Value award at the Constructing Excellence Awards 2022 as well as Project of the Year and Going the Extra Mile at the Civil Engineers Contractors Association awards.

Elephant Rock, the restored outdoor events space on Hartlepool's Headland, was designed and developed by Hartlepool Borough Council's own in-house teams with work being completed by local company Seymour Civil Engineering as principal contractor.

Reflecting on the award wins, Councillor Shane Moore, Leader of Hartlepool Borough Council, said: "We are delighted that Elephant Rock has won a series prestigious awards and it is testament to the hard work of everyone involved in this project."

"Elephant Rock is a fantastic asset for the people of Hartlepool and I am very much looking forward to it continuing to play a key role in our events programme moving forward."

Elephant Rock has been created by the restoration of a previous site which was built in the late 1800s to provide a place for civic, community and cultural events.

It incorporated a bandstand and also served as a viewing platform for the historic Elephant Rock which stood a short distance offshore. This was an elephant-shaped limestone rock formed by a combination of coastal erosion and quarrying. Much of it collapsed into the sea following a storm in 1891.

Hartlepool Borough Council's Assistant Director of Place Management, Kieran Bostock, whose teams designed and project managed the scheme commented: "This has been a really enjoyable project to be involved with and these awards are testament to the work that both the Council as well as our principal contractor, Seymour Civil Engineering, have put into the project. The fact the project has now received five accolades over the past year is testament to the skill and experience of the project team."

Overcoming some strong competition for the national awards, Kieran continued: "The competition for these awards has been intense so it is fantastic for us to be crowned winners and receive such national recognition for a project delivered right here in Hartlepool."

Elephant Rock reopened earlier this year and has already hosted a number of events including the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in June.



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online.hartlepool.gov.uk