

EUREKA PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND FINAL EVALUATION REPORT



“To restore the physical and cultural heritage of Eureka Park, to get the park used and enjoyed by a wider audience through a greater choice of activities, facilities and improved surroundings, and to involve local people in the future of the Park”.



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Foreword

How important are parks and green spaces to you?

Are they just a nice-to-have or are they a must-have? What would your neighbourhood be like without somewhere for the children to go and play, without somewhere to play sport, walk the dog, or without somewhere just to sit and relax a while?

Today in South Derbyshire, we are very proud of our environment. It is certainly a very different place to how it looked even 30 years ago. Open cast mines, pits, quarries and factories were the main features of the landscape, especially in the urban area. Now those industries are a distant memory and while their decline was unwelcome, it has brought new ways to create jobs and restore and enhance the landscape. The National Forest is reclaiming large parts of the landscape back for nature, and we place a very high value on our parks and open green spaces for the quality of life of our residents.

Our parks are also an important part of our cultural heritage and Eureka Park is now a prime example of this. Our partnership with Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has ensured that the heritage of the Park is preserved and memories celebrated. Physical restoration and refurbishment, along with delivery of the Invisible Heritage Project has empowered visitors, the local community and local businesses to understand and value this history, and the positive impact this Park has had for over 80 years.

The Management and Maintenance Plan developed as part of this project set out the long-term plans and aspirations for the Park's future preservation, and we will work hard to achieve this as we continue with the legacy of this collaborative heritage project. We will continue to invest time and resources to make sure this Park is fit for the next generation and beyond.

Key Achievements of the Project - Outcomes infographics



181 walks

640 walkers



600 events and activities

212% increase with 15,380 participants

665 volunteers



3900 hours

Value £43,000



107.6% Visitor increase

103,800 visitors in 2018

Summary

In 2013, following representations from the local community to improve Eureka Park, South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) was awarded £547,316 from the Parks for People Programme (funded through Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund). With match funding the total project value amounted to £828,832.

The impact this project has had in improving the Park infrastructure, interpreting the local heritage and engaging the community has been profound.

The specific aims for the project were defined as:

- Increase the range of the Park's audience
- Conserve and enhance the diverse Heritage
- Increase the range of volunteers
- Improve skills and knowledge
- Improve management and maintenance.

The capital works, undertaken as part of the project, have restored and renovated the Park, interpreting the social and physical heritage beautifully and thoughtfully, so as to teach and engage future generations with the Park's past and present. The heritage interpretation works and trails created, alongside the SPRYTAR app, which lets users find games about the Park to play when they visit, as well as other information such as trails around the Park, information about the Park's history and ecology stored in digital maps, enable visitors to engage with heritage activities within the Park instantly and at their own choosing.

All of the capital and renovation works, alongside an updated Management and Maintenance Plan, the delivery of the Parks for People project and a lot of hard work and collaboration between SDDC Cultural Services Team and its Grounds Maintenance Team, has contributed to Eureka Park gaining Green Flag status.

Examples of Infrastructure Improvements include:

- The terrace beds have been restored and replanted as a spectacular feature
- The floral clock has been re-interpreted as a sundial feature
- The former paddling pool area has been re-formed into an activity water feature
- The Rose Archway has been reinstated
- A new performance and amphitheatre have been renovated where the bandstand once stood.
- The Memorial Gates have been restored and a new Memorial Garden built.
- Wooden sculptures of a pit boy and pony to interpret 'Owd Shoddy' pit have been commissioned and are due to be installed in 2019.

Community Engagement

Alongside the restoration works to the Park the project has raised its profile significantly, with visitor numbers increasing by over 100% since project start, with over 103,000 visitors to the Park in 2018. The activity plan and appointment of a community engagement officer helped create a range of new events and activities within the Park, which attracted new audiences to the Park and greater community engagement, with over 600 activities and more than 15,000 participants.

The project has worked with over 600 volunteers, helping to rebuild the 'Friends of Eureka' in an advisory capacity and creating partnerships with over 30 local groups, charities and organisations. This relationship building has instigated some events that are now firm favourites in the Eureka Park events calendar, and due to organisations and volunteers taking full control of planning and delivery of several events, the prospects of continuity are high. Many volunteers have also gained skills and learning through projects that have physically renovated and maintained the Park, such as the building of the Memorial Garden, reinstating fencing and replanting of terraces.

To summarise, the aims and aspirations for this project have been met and in many cases exceeded, breathing new life and transforming this valuable landscape. Interpreting the heritage along with improvements to how the Park is maintained, has had a positive impact on the quality of Swadlincote town centre, attracting more people to the Park and providing a venue for events and activities that can be sustained for many years to come.

Background and original aims of the project

Eureka Park was awarded £547,316 from the Parks for People Programme (funded through HLF and Big Lottery Fund) with match-funding sourced from Section 106 Agreements, SDDC's Grounds Maintenance input in kind and time given by volunteers, the total project value totals £828,832.

The project was made up of two elements:

- Restoration and refurbishment
- Community engagement (known as the Eureka Park Invisible Heritage Project)

In February 2013 SDDC was successful in its bid to HLF for funding to enable the Eureka Park restoration project.

A Long Process

In 2000, the Friends of Eureka Park was very active in the Park and fundraised for numerous projects. A historical research project was undertaken by the Friends of Eureka Park in 2005, which charts the development of the Park from its early beginnings to present day and this was to be the foundation for much of the work seen today.

In 2008, SDDC was awarded a Project Planning Grant from the HLF and both Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire and Ashmead Price were appointed to carry out a huge programme of public consultation to inform a Masterplan for Eureka Park.

Ideas and opinions were fed in through a variety of activities such as heritage walks, environmental education sessions and consultation sessions and through lots of different groups including the local schools, groups such as the Swadlincote Air Training Corps., Eureka Bowling Club, People Express and walking groups.

All this involvement by local people has informed the restoration of the Park and the improvements seen today.

Project Aims

The aim of the restoration of the Park, along with improvements to the way it is maintained, was to have a positive impact on the quality of the local environment, to attract more people to the Park and provide a venue for events and activities that could be sustained for many years to come. The vision for the project was:

“To restore the physical and cultural heritage of Eureka Park, get the Park used and enjoyed by a wider audience through a greater choice of activities, facilities and improved surroundings, and to involve local people in the future of the park”.

The specific aims for the project were defined as:

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The Restoration Works

Restoration works began in March 2014 and were completed on September 11, 2014.

The capital restoration works revived the features which had been lost over time or had deteriorated in quality. Today we can see:

- A newly-defined performance area fit for all sorts of events and activities
- The refurbished Memorial Gates befitting of their importance particularly at this important centenary time.
- The newly-created World War One (WW1) Memorial Garden built to commemorate the end of WW1, providing the public with a quiet place for contemplation.
- The beautifully re-energised terraced areas of planting which bring some long-lost colour and plant interest back into the Park.
- The rose arch walk has been reinstated, to its former rustic timber glory.
- The Silver Birch Avenue has been reinstated.
- The water cascade features have been restored and re-landscaped.
- The newly-created natural waterplay area which gives both young and old visitors somewhere to explore and dabble with water.
- On the site of the old and well-loved floral clock, the fabulous new sundial which proclaims, ‘Now is the hour’.
- The interpretation of ‘Owd Shoddy Pit’ with the installation of wooden sculptures of a pit boy and pony made from an oak tree, salvaged from Cadley Pit when it closed in the late 1980s, to be completed in 2019.



Children enjoy playing in the newly-completed 'Splash Zone'.



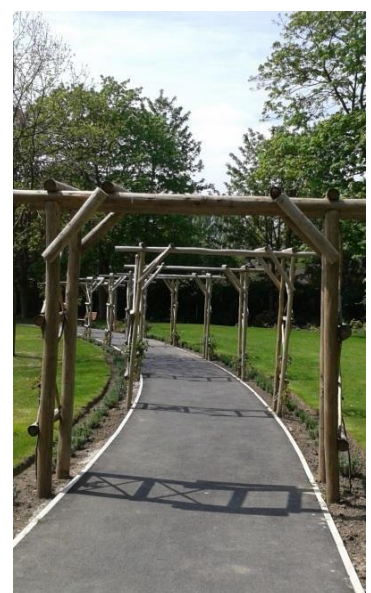
Restoration of the landscape features at the cascades.



Renovated Memorial Gates.



Newly-built Memorial Garden.



Rose arches.



Swadlincote Gardening Club volunteers helped to re-plan the renovated terraces.

Along with improvements to the way the Park is maintained and the physical restoration work, there has been a supporting community engagement programme, to rediscover the “Invisible Heritage” of the Park. The Community Engagement Officer worked with the activity plan to address the aims of the project. The activity plan also delivered learning and participation activities.

Action Plan Programme – Activities and Outcomes

The Action Plan set out in detail the activities which helped achieve the proposed aims, and to help monitor the success activities were grouped under the headings; Community Engagement and Events, Education and Learning, Training and Skills, Management and Maintenance.

Community Engagement and Events

Many working and community relationships have been forged throughout the lifespan of the project, to enable delivery, community cohesion and participation within the Park and with the project. These include volunteer groups/organisations such as Derbyshire Breastfeeding Volunteers, Friends of Eureka and the Youth Planning Group to name but a few. Also, vital partnerships have been formed with schools, Derbyshire County Council’s Library Service and youth workers, the Health Service, animal charity RSPCA and support agencies such as Home-Start. Below are some more detailed examples of this community engagement, but for an exhaustive list of all partnership working throughout the project please see Table 1 on page 31 of this report.

Friends of Eureka (FOE)

An approved purpose of the Invisible Heritage Project was to re- establish and increase activities of the Friends of Eureka (FOE) and to date 10 members have consistently attended regular meetings since September 2017. The group is consulted to inform interpretation and evaluation work. It has helped to make a documentary style film, with the support of the Derby Movie Makers, to help evaluate the project. Members also supported the building of the War Memorial Garden, firstly by initiating the idea for the project, and then continuing to support with their ideas, for example it was the FOE’s idea to approach Chameleon Construction College for support with the building of the garden.

Members also helped organise and deliver the Eureka Youth Event, a small health and wellbeing event, supported Choir in the Park, Mayday and Bark in the Park by stewarding, providing refreshments, handing out programmes or participating, and have also taken part in tree planting on the park.



Friends of the Park tree planting.



Youth planning group



Youth event

The Community Engagement Officer participated in detached youth work sessions near to the Park, supported by a volunteer from FOE and in partnership with Derbyshire County Council youth workers. Evidence from these sessions highlighted a need for more positive activities within the Park to engage young people aged 11 years and older. Young people's ideas informed the programme of activities for the event, which was held for the first time in May 2017.

The event was well attended by over 350 young people, and statistics and contact details gathered from this initial event helped to form the eUREKA youth planning group, which met monthly with the community engagement officer, from September 2017 to help plan, develop and deliver the next eUREKA which was held in May 2018.



Community Quilt Project

Initiated in September 2015, the Community Quilt project was designed to celebrate the heritage of the Park through the delivery of a creative and social project.

A small group of women, known as the Knit and Natter group, expressed interest in creating a quilt. A room was hired in the Town Hall and the group came together in a series of sessions, facilitated by the Parklife Officer, to look at old photographs and images of Eureka Park and start to create a series of embroidered and quilted squares.

Over a nine-month period the work came together, each piece depicting a different feature of the Park incorporating old and new. It was pinned to an old quilt and in March 2016, with the help of a local seamstress, the finished Community Quilt was created.

The quilt was made by nine volunteers with around 1500 hours of work going into the making of the quilt. It is a beautiful piece of craft and has attracted a lot of attention wherever it has been displayed. It has toured Swadlincote – Library, Sharpes Museum, schools, Oaklands Village, and community centres. The group has given talks and presentations to local groups about its creation.





Eureka's May Day Parade and Celebration

To bring a sense of tradition and celebrate cultural heritage a May Day event was initiated in 2017. A maypole was purchased for the Park, and maypole dance workshops delivered by the Community Engagement Officer to teachers and children in Years 3 and 4. Over 200 children participated in the event over two years, from local schools Springfield Juniors and Elmsleigh Infants. Pupils were tasked with making mini maypoles during the Easter break, which they paraded from school to the Park. Congregating at the performance area around the maypole, the audience of family members and school friends were waiting to spectate and celebrate as the dances were performed.

In 2018, Physical Education teachers from the same local schools were trained in maypole dancing. Training the teachers was crucial to making this a sustainable activity, and the schools involved have expressed the desire to carry on with this tradition for future years.



Bark in the Park

This event began in 2015 and has continued for the duration of the project. The event was initiated through partnership working between the Community Engagement Officer and the RSPCA, who wanted to hold a large-scale fundraising event in Swadlincote. Since first taking place in 2015, the event has grown in size, is supported by many local small businesses and is attended by hundreds of dog owners along with their dogs.

The biggest draw of the event is the fun dog show, which hosts well over 100 entries; the different breeds are a sight to behold. There are many stalls along with wonderful refreshments provided by the RSPCA and Stretton Scouts. Also fantastic local entertainment provided by the Swadlincote Dance and Music Centre, which puts on a show in the newly-renovated performance area.

Bark in the Park has been the best attended event at Eureka Park, run by volunteers, helping raise much needed funds for animal rescue, promoting local businesses, encouraging responsible animal ownership within the Park and bringing the community together to enjoy a fun day out, where all of the family can enjoy the Park's beautiful surroundings. People travel from miles around meaning the exposure of the Park is far-reaching.

It is the intention of the local RSPCA shop to continue with this event that has become a firm favourite of the Park's event calendar, meaning there is a high chance of continuity.



The Royal British Legion (RBL) and Chameleon School of Construction

Following the reforming of the 'Friends of Eureka Park' (FOE) volunteer group, the idea of a Memorial Garden was suggested by some Royal British Legion (RBL) members. FOE members voted unanimously that it was a project they would like to enable. HLF agreed it was a suitable project to add to the action plan.

The Community Engagement Officer approached Chameleon School of Construction (CSC); Swadlincote (CSC) which confirmed its support with the build of the garden, stating the

project would be invaluable experience for its students. The work was completed to a high standard fully supervised by instructors. Also, CSC confirmed its support to help maintain the garden (along with the RBL) after project completion, as an ongoing learning experience for its students.

Howard Price (designer of all the HLF re-landscaping within the Park) volunteered his time and provided a design and sketched plans for the garden, which all parties approved. Howard also met with and advised CSC prior to works proceeding. Without the volunteered time of Howard Price and CSC this project would not have been able to take place.

RBL arranged an opening dedication ceremony conducted by local clergy and attended by Councillors, dignitaries, RBL members and the public, prior to the WW1 commemoration events and national beacon lighting in the Park in November 2018.



South Derbyshire Mining Preservation Group (SDMPG)

The SDMPG met with the Community Engagement Officer and relayed the story of a section of the former Cadley Hill Oak Tree, a lone oak tree which survived throughout the time of Cadley Colliery's lifespan. A section of the oak had been salvaged by the SDMPG when the pit closed in the mid-1980s, and had been stored, with the hope that one day a suitable project would come about and breathe life into the tree once more.

The plan for a mining art installation within Eureka Park derives from the requirement to interpret the "invisible heritage" of the Park as part of the HLF project, especially the mining heritage. This is because the Park takes its name from the 'Eureka' coal stream which lies beneath and also because of the site on the Park where 'Owd Shoddy' pit once stood. So it was planned for an interpretative art installation to be created and SDMPG donated the Cadley Oak to make a sculpture for the site, which along with a heritage trail lectern, is a fitting reminder of the Park's invisible heritage.

A sculptor from the Midlands, Anthony Hammond, was procured to create the art work. Anthony also had the idea to incorporate four miners' fobs into the installation, which came from the four last South Derbyshire pits. Measham - closed in 1986, Cadley (where the oak came from) closed in 1988, Rawdon – closed 1989 and Donisthorpe – closed 1990. This creates a time capsule within the sculptures, adding a wonderful historical touch for future generations.

SDMPG advised on the authenticity of the sculptures so as they truly represent 'Owd Shoddy'. The pit was developed in 1880, with the shafts were capped off in 1938. It was decided, with agreement from the 'Friends of Eureka' and the HLF that the sculptures would be of a pit boy and pony, which is representative of this era. Also it was thought that this may resonate with younger generations, so as to spark interest and curiosity to engage with the heritage. Photographs of local pit boys and ponies were provided by the Magic Attic for the artist to use, to ensure historical accuracy which SDMPG advised on.



The Magic Attic

The organisation is a registered charity run completely by volunteers, and was started in 1987 by some local historians, with the aim of preserving local history and heritage. The archive holds an extensive collection and the volunteers have worked collaboratively with the project, aiding the historical research necessary to initiate, plan, deliver and complete the Eureka Invisible Heritage Project.

The Magic Attic archives informed research of the Park's beginnings, which then informed the HLF applications for funding. Information and photographs were then sourced throughout the lifespan of the project, to accurately inform many aspects, such as the physical renovation and interpretation work in the Park, the heritage trails created and for the exhibition 'Shoddy to Superb'.

Choir in the Park

The event took place for the first time in the summer of 2018, in the renovated performance and amphitheatre. Four local choirs, with members aged between eight and 80 years, agreed to volunteer their time to take part. They liaised with the Community Engagement Officer to help plan and promote the event. The choirs performed in the open air at a free event for over 300 members of the public. It is hoped this was the first performance of many, with the SDDC Events Team keen to organise more community performances at Eureka Park's performance space in the future.



Filming

Filming took place on December 1, 2018 with the voluntary support of Derby Film makers. The film was made with members of the FOE and other partners throughout the project. The film is documentary style, with people talking about their involvement with the project, how it has impacted upon them and their relationship with the Park. Also, some people reminisce about the Park and its past, and some talk of the Park now and what it means to them. The film captures the Park's meaning to the community in the past, present and future. The film is to be shown at a celebration event to be planned by SDDC Events Team in 2019.

Sustainability

Sustainability of the project is strengthened with the support of SDDC Events Team, Active Communities and Health Team and the Parklife Officer, who will continue to run events, and support organisations to continue with the running of events, such as the RSPCA and Bark in the Park, schools with the 'May Day' celebration and Choir in the Park. The Events Team also plans to support a final celebration event for the project in the spring of 2019.

Education and learning

'The Big Dig' and 'Shoddy to Superb Exhibition' were shortlisted for the East Midlands Heritage Awards 2015 – 'Judges' Special Award' and the 'Heart of the Community Award' respectively.

The Big Dig – Community Archaeology Event

In July 2014, as part of the National Festival of Archaeology, SDDC and Sharpe's Pottery Museum teamed up to run a community archaeology event known as 'Eureka Big Dig'.

An area of the Park was identified for the dig where large numbers of holes would not cause disruption. The area chosen was next to the current five-a-side kick about area close to the Belmont Street passage. It is known that in the past to the immediate west lay the former offices of British Coal and beyond the former site of Ault's Pottery. The former site of Owd Shoddy Pit lay some distance to the north and a railway used to run immediately to the south. Despite all this industrial activity surrounding the Park, the 1901 OS map shows the site as an open field, so what would be found in the dig was a mystery!

In one area, burnt wood, roof tiling, brick and 20th century produced window glass highlighted that the area was used to disperse the remains of the old cricket pavilion which had burned down to the ground. Also found here were sweet wrappers, old drinks tins and a coin all identifiable to the 1950's. In another pit in the centre of the dig area, shards of locally produced Mocha Ware pottery and thick glass from bottles of the 18th century were found.

Most pits produced remains of an industrial heritage with large amounts of slag and clinker which most likely came from the local kilns and the railway situated at the edges of the Park.

Domestic refuse throughout all the pits included clay smoking pipes, pieces of glazed pottery, bones and coal identifying that the Park was a dumping area long before the days of Council refuse collections. This project encouraged local people to walk through Eureka Park and remember what invisible heritage may lay hidden below their feet!

The Big Dig 2014.



Shoddy to Superb Exhibition Showcase

From January 10 to February 26, 2015 an exhibition was held at Sharpe's Pottery Museum. Information boards were created for people to find out more about the origins and history of the Park, its invisible heritage and the restoration work that has taken place. Also people were able to view the workings from the old floral clock, and learn about the findings from the Big Dig event.

Heritage walks

Eureka Teddy Walk, which is a heritage walk around the Park aimed at children under five years old and 'Footsteps around the Park Eureka Park's Past' celebrate the history of the Park. The mascot 'Bertie Bear' helps to promote and deliver the teddy walks at events.



Tree Trail

The tree trail, which was mapped in spring 2017, takes in some of the notable mature trees around the Park, and also picks out some of the newer ornamental trees which have been planted

in the Park since 2012. The trail also tells people about the trees' significance or particular qualities. The tree trail and heritage walks are available digitally via the SPRYTAR app.

SPRYTAR App

The app was a new addition to the Park in 2018 and is available to download free from app stores. Once downloaded the SPRYTAR app enables participants to take part in games and activities to enjoy within the Park. All activities relate to the Park's history or ecology, for example heritage walks and the tree trail are available here. It is intended that there will be a launch event in the spring of 2019.

Environmental Education Team (EET) Initiatives

Creation of loans box of heritage resources has been put together for distribution to the local schools. This comprises a series of exercises and activities related to the various Key Stages, particularly aimed at the junior/primary school ages. It is intended that it will be launched in schools alongside some led sessions and a teacher training day.

The EET has also delivered many other ecological activities during the life span of the project, for example making bat houses, holding a Bio-blitz and delivering activities such as with hibernation, birds, bees, butterflies and frogs.

Please refer to the Appendices Table 1 and Table 3 which outlines community engagement and partnership working throughout the Project, and an example of the 2018 activity log.

Marketing and planning

SPRYTAR

As well as being a learning tool for the Park, the app has the potential to be developed as a marketing tool where links can be made to the SDDC website and the events pages. Also, SPRYTAR can be promoted on social media and the website so as to encourage people to visit the Park and try out the games and trails available. The app can be promoted with schools and at events, further encouraging people to engage with the Park's heritage.

Notice Boards

The notice boards have been and continue to be a very practical and popular means of promoting events and sharing information within the Park. For example, FOE volunteers got accustomed to checking the notice boards for meeting dates; also members of the public could be advised to do so by the Park Keeper or Community Engagement Officer. This process proved to be very convenient and practical for many people. The bespoke display cases were refurbished as part of the capital works and are also a striking feature of the Park.

What's on Guide and Parklife leaflet

The guide and leaflets are well used and commonplace means of advertising local events and activities. The leaflets are promoted by the local tourist information centre, within schools and public service buildings, the Park notice boards and SDDC notice boards and website. They are the

'go to' leaflets for the community to find out what is happening in Swadlincote, so Park events are advertised here with great success and a wide audience reach.

SDDC website and social media

The website was redesigned and relaunched in 2018, with new pages created for the Park and for heritage sites. The Park has also been promoted via social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, which may enable the younger generation to access information regarding events and activities within the Park. The 2018 Remembrance Service Communications Report below provides an example of how social media is being utilised to promote the Park.

#WW1Centenary social media pre and post event

In the run up the Eureka Park memorial garden event (Saturday, November 2) and Remembrance Sunday (Sunday, November 11), a number of social media posts were created along with key messages to raise awareness about how the event was being commemorated.

Highlighted below is the information on how well these posts performed on social media. In total, within a week on the central Facebook page, 28,360 people saw the content.

Social media post	Reach of posts	Reactions to posts	Comments on posts	Shares from posts	Total engagements from posts and from shared posts
Eureka Garden	8,440	206	4	19	828
Eureka Garden	593	9	0	1	18
Eureka Garden	507	5	0	1	9
Eureka Garden on the day	7,151	49	3	20	1,179
Remembrance Sunday	664	5	0	2	28
Parade	881	4	1	2	44
Parade	530	9	0	1	23
Beacon lighting	4,332	16	4	14	388
Beacon lighting	1,066	7	0	4	103
Take a moment to remember	380	2	0	0	8
Remembrance Sunday	580	7	0	1	22
Remembrance Sunday on the day	1,236	81	3	4	368
Total	28,360	400	15	69	3,018

Training and skills

The Prince's Trust programme is for unemployed young people aged 16 to 25. It is a 12-week self-development programme helping participants to learn new skills and gain qualifications. Part of the programme is a community development project, and the Burton team involved chose to tidy up the Park's Memorial Gate entrance and design and plant around the memorial tree.

The group had to design the project, source materials and work as a team to deliver the one-day project. They were shown the various techniques of hoeing, raking, edging out and planting by a member of the Council's Grounds Maintenance team, and then they were supervised to undertake the work. Following on from this project the Community Engagement Officer was able to secure a two-week work placement, for one of the young people. This placement was with the Grounds Maintenance Team and Park Keeper, working within the Park.



Prince's Trust community project.

Chameleon School of Construction

The school is playing a pivotal role in the maintenance of the Park, for not only did it complete projects such as the building of the Memorial Garden, but it is also undertaking some maintenance jobs, such as the painting of the Park's public toilets, and maintaining planting around the Memorial Garden. This helps improve the Park's maintenance, improves the learners' skills set and is also helping to develop community cohesion within the Park.



Chameleon School of Construction.



DART

Trainees from DART- a local training provider, began a training programme as part of an arrangement with South Derbyshire District Council's Grounds Team. Trainees learnt how to maintain Eureka Park's shrubs, lay turf, plant trees and paint outdoor furniture. Also, they have erected a new timber fence by the bowling green. Trainees learnt to install concrete posts, create a level fencing line, fit rails and kick boards, and put up feather-edged boards to achieve a professional finish.

The trainees who were from the local area worked towards a Work-Based Diploma within the City and Guilds programme of learning.



DART Training.



The project has hosted more than 30 work placements, trainees and work-placed volunteers.

Management and Maintenance

The Management and Maintenance Plan (MMP)

The plan sets out all the work that the Council will undertake in Eureka Park that relates to the management and maintenance of the physical environment. It also outlines how the local community will be involved and engaged in its delivery, set out in a five-year plan. It identifies what will be done, by whom, when and how.

The Plan builds on work carried out during the refurbishment of Eureka Park and the subsequent aftercare requirements as a result of the improvements. It has been designed to achieve the aims of the HLF Invisible Heritage Project.

Weekly tasking meetings

Meetings are held between Senior Grounds Operatives, the Grounds Supervisor and Service

Manager to raise issues and discuss requirements regarding operational matters and development opportunities for each service area. The permanent Park Keeper is a great asset and enables great community engagement and everyday maintenance.

The Green Flag Award

The award has given staff a sense of pride in the Park. The MMP was revised in early 2018 providing the plan for the Park and the Council's workforce to gain this high standard of achievement, which will be maintained as required by HLF as part of the original funding requirements.

Appendices table 2 provides a complete picture of project elements achieved.

Issues during the course of the project

The Masterplan

The development of the masterplan for the restoration and refurbishment of Eureka Park was informed by research and consultation. Old Ordnance survey plans, aerial photographs, postcards and pictures all helped to provide information about how the Park used to look and the features that it used to contain.

Old planting layouts, evident on aerial photographs and plans, would be recreated. Routes of footpaths which had been modified over time would be returned to their original lines, and structures which had become damaged and obscured by planting and inappropriately planted trees were to be restored to their former glory.

This has all been achieved.

With this plan in mind it became necessary to remove some trees and also to redesign and relocate some of the planted terraces. This met with some opposition from local residents, and had to be handled sensitively with meetings with the tree officer, Community Engagement Officer and community members, so as to explain and enable further understanding of the project's intentions for the Park.

Restore or Interpret?

When developing the masterplan, some key decisions had to be made about what features could realistically be restored or re-introduced in the context of a modern park. The paddling pool, the floral clock and the bandstand all formed an important part of the Park's history, and featured highly in recollections, memories and photographs. It is not always possible or practical to re-create features of this type because of cost, health and safety and maintenance implications and so it was decided that a modern interpretation would be required for both the site of the old paddling pool and the band stand.

Temporary Loss of Community Engagement Officer

In 2015, mid-way through the project, the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) left the project and the post was not replaced until November 2017. This situation was managed by other staff members at SDDC, such as the Parklife Officer continuing some of the work during this period of time and also by up keeping records and logs for monitoring purposes.

ASB and Vandalism

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and vandalism have been an issue on the Park, especially during

the final 12 months of the project. The SDDC Community Safety Team advises that ASB can be of a cyclical nature, in that it can come and go depending on the time of year, age of perpetrators, the nature of the ASB and consequently how it is dealt with.

To address the issues, an ASB review meeting was instigated by the Community Engagement Officer and Open Spaces Manager with SDDC Community Safety Manager, SDDC ASB Officer, DCC Youth Workers, Community Police and the SDDC Community Safety Wardens.

There is now a clear reporting system in place for the Park Keepers that has enabled rapid response to minor damage and vandalism. Also the Park Keepers have played a very active role in ASB prevention by keeping up-to-date diary logs of incidents and perpetrators, and also by reporting incidents to the police and collating crime numbers.

As a result of the ASB review meetings and shared information, several notices were served, to restrict some of the perpetrators accessing the Park with a reduction in incidents following this. Also the Park Keepers were provided and trained to use body cameras, which evidence suggests serve as a preventative measure to reduce ASB behaviour and also help to protect staff members from abuse.

Along with the above measures there has been a considerable reduction in ASB incidents.

Cameron Homes

A housing development situated next to the Park on Midland Road has caused some boundary issues over the final 12 months of the project that have not yet been resolved. The issues are of inadequate landscaping that are contrary to the original site plans. Initially this was being addressed by the Community Engagement Officer and Open Spaces Manager. However due to the nature of this issue being related to planning, it is now being resolved with the assistance of a SDDC Enforcement Officer, and a mutually agreed alternative landscaping plan is due to be implemented in the very near future.

Lessons learned

Friends of Eureka (FOE)

The FOE began meeting in September 2017, initially with 13 volunteers attending meetings. Over the months this number dropped to eight, however these volunteers have been regular attendees at monthly meetings. The group has had a very positive impact upon the project, in that it has advised and contributed ideas for interpretation, evaluation and delivery of activities.

However, the group has not yet become constituted so as to take more ownership of the Park and move forward with ideas and any funding bids that might enable this. There are several reasons for this. Firstly there is a lack of confidence from individuals to do so, even though support has been provided by the Community Engagement Officer and South

Derbyshire CVS. In addition, draft constitutions have been prepared in collaboration with the volunteers, but still no individuals are prepared to commit to the roles of chairperson or secretary.

Furthermore, it is felt that to encourage the group to be more autonomous and proactive it would benefit from its own meeting space within the Park where, for example, it could hold meetings, small activities and run events. It is possible that providing a space for the group to meet and take ownership of, within the Park, would further encourage volunteers to move forward with a constitution, and enable the group to flourish and grow in numbers and possibilities in the future.

It has been expressed by volunteers and staff that the next step for the development of the Park should be to build such a space within the Grounds Maintenance compound that already exists within the Park.

Learning Environment

Schools have not engaged independently with the loans boxes created by the Environmental Education Team (EET). However, schools did engage when the sessions were delivered by the EET. It is possible that to further encourage schools to participate in learning within the Park, the availability of a classroom space would be of benefit. Such a space would provide the opportunity to run sessions when the weather is not suitable for outdoor learning (many sessions during the delivery of the activity plan have had to be cancelled due to bad weather). Also a classroom space may encourage more use of the Park by schools due to the added convenience and opportunity to plan and deliver sessions within the Park, but with the added advantage of easy access to the Park's facilities and learning opportunities, such as trails, heritage interpretations, the performance area and nature itself. It is possible that a facility could serve as both a volunteer meeting space and classroom environment.

Review

The Invisible Heritage Project has successfully achieved all of its major aims. The capital investment was completed in 2014 and the delivery of the Landscape masterplan has ensured restoration and interpretation works have been delivered that have improved the heritage, environment and horticultural elements within the Park.

The appointment of a Community Engagement Officer meant the activity plan was adhered to. Sustainability of the Park has been increased by improving the skills of the workforce and volunteers through training and supervision. Partnerships with organisations such as Chameleon School of Construction, The Prince's Trust and DART are examples of volunteer projects that have enabled this. Activities increased for the 'friends group' which has been re-established in an advisory capacity, and there have been over 600 volunteers involved in total throughout the duration of the project.

Play and sports equipment has been refurbished and an outdoor gym added to the site, improving facilities and footfall. A focus on working with partners has been paramount and successful in engaging young people positively within the Park, for example with the youth planning group and eUReka Youth event. A wide range of improved publicity and marketing has been created, such as the SPRYTAR app, use of social media and also the volunteer involvement, meaning the range of visitors has increased significantly, with over 15,000 people attending events and activities throughout the project's lifespan.

The quality of the maintenance and management continues to improve, with a revised plan in 2018 and regular management meetings between SDDC Cultural Services and Grounds Maintenance teams. The appointment of a permanent Park Keeper impacted positively with a noticeable improvement to the Park's cleanliness. Also minor vandalism and damage can be reported as it happens through a clear reporting system, which is proving effective in rapid response. Green Flag status has been attained and a clear plan is in place to ensure this is retained.

The vision for the project has been achieved *"To restore the physical and cultural heritage of Eureka Park, to get the Park used and enjoyed by a wider audience through a greater choice of activities, facilities and improved surroundings, and to involve local people in the future of the Park"*.

Appendices

- **Table 1 Community Engagement and Partners**
- **Table 2 Project Achievements**
- **Table 3 Activity Log 2018**

Attachments

- **Shoddy to Superb Exhibition Boards**

Table 1 Community Engagement and Partners

<u>Name of Organisation/Group.....</u>	<u>Contribution /Outcome for the Park...</u>
Friends of Eureka	Supported and advised building of Memorial Garden. Initiated and helped make film. Helped initiate and deliver events.
South Derbyshire Mining Preservation Group	Advised on 'Owd Shoddy' installation.
Homestart	Delivered collaborative events within the Park Home-Start Celebration and Breathe Event.
Royal British Legion	Helped deliver Remembrance services, Beacon lightings. Initiated, supported and advised on the Memorial Garden build.
P3 (Charity supporting socially excluded and vulnerable adults)	Engaged in Park maintenance and repairs.
DART (Service supporting young people back to work)	Engaged in a training scheme which helped improve and maintain the Park.
Chameleon School of Construction	Completed the build of the Memorial Garden. Painted the public toilets amongst other maintenance projects.
Local Choirs	Five local choirs supported planning and performed voluntarily for Choir in the Park.
South Derbyshire Breastfeeding Group and volunteers	Volunteers helped support, plan and deliver national and international breastfeeding support events.
Springfield school	Engaged with May Day event parade, performing dances and Choir in the Park.
Elmsleigh School	Engaged with May Day event parade and performed dances.
Pingle School	Engaged with, supported planning and delivery of Youth Event
Belmont School	Delivered school sport events, engaged with Environmental Education events
Swadlincote Multi-Agency Team Youth Service	Engaged, supported planning and helped deliver Youth Event. Delivered anti-social

	behaviour deterrent programme of detached youth work.
Magic Attic	Supported with all historical research and the delivery of heritage learning events.
Environmental Education Team	Delivered ecological learning programme, created heritage loans box and heritage trails.
SDDC Sport and Health team	Delivered sports activities/events for holiday schemes. Supported delivery of Youth Event.
The Railway Inn	Supported 'Friends of Eureka' with the free use of rooms. Provided the hire of rooms and refreshments for events. Took part in tree planting.
Derbyshire Film Makers	Filmed and edited the evaluation film project.
Tribal Vibes Community Drumming	Supported planning and delivery of Youth event.
Eureka Park Users' Forum	Engaged in advisory capacity.
The Prince's Trust	Engaged and delivered gardening project.
Air Training Corps	Supported, planned and delivered WW1 Battles Over a Nation Tribute Beacon Lighting Event. Participated and advised on outdoor gym consultation.
Swadlincote Gardening Club	Engaged in replanting and re-landscaping Projects.
National Festival of Archaeology	Helped deliver 'The Big Dig'.
Outdoor Gym Consultation Group	Advised on outdoor gym installation.
RSPCA	Organised and delivered Bark in the Park in partnership with Community Engagement Officer SDDC
Derbyshire Library Service	Delivered family reading activities on the Park.
Michael Cashmore Tai Chi	Health event.

Oaklands Village	Supported events with delivery and promotions.
Blue Bell Tea Rooms	Donated cakes for events provided refreshments for Green Flag judges.

Table 2 – Project Elements Achieved

Project Elements	Achieved?	NOTES and EXAMPLES
RESTORATION WORKS		
Relocated, restored and replanted terraced beds	YES	
Re-interpret the floral clock with the building of a sundial	YES	
Re-interpret band stand by building new performance area	YES	A new outdoor performance area created incorporating original amphitheatre
Reinterpret the Paddling Pool	Yes	New water play area created
Repair and re-landscaping of Cascade Area	Yes	
Restoration of Midland Road Memorial Gates	Yes	
Restoration of John Street Gates	Yes	
Improved footpaths and access	Yes	
Refurbish 2x welcome signs and install 6x bespoke display cases	Yes	
Re-instate rose arch walkway	Yes	Installed to the original rustic timber spec.
Interpret 'Owd Shoddy' Pit	Yes	Installation of wooden sculptures pit boy and pony
New tennis court weld mesh fencing installed	Yes	
Refurbished crazy golf course	Yes	
Tree surgery works as recommended by SDDC Tree Officer	Yes	
Tree removal as recommended by SDDC Tree Officer	Yes	
Tree Planting	Yes	Avenues re-created, defined spaces and vistas, continuity of tree cover

		ensured, commemorative/memorial planting
Instillation of 16 new, 18 refurbished cast iron seats and 3x picnic benches	Yes	
Repair and redecorate existing boundary metal railings to single colour.	Yes	
Install six new double wheelie bin case recycling units	Yes	
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		NOTES and EXAMPLES
Rebuild 'Friends of Eureka'	Partially completed	Regular monthly volunteer meetings taking place for 16 months to date. Group yet to become constituted
Members to take an active role in the development and management of the Park	Yes	In an advisory capacity, initiating ideas, supporting with delivery of events and projects
Work with partners to deliver activities and address anti-social behaviour (ASB)	Yes	ASB review meetings, youth planning group and Youth Event. Volunteering and training projects
Create temporary exhibitions	Yes	'Shoddy to Superb' and 'The Big Dig'
Deliver annual events programme	Yes	604 events/activities with over 15,000 participants
EDUCATION and LEARNING		NOTES and EXAMPLES
Creation of Loans box	Yes	Created by Environmental Education Team, with Park heritage lesson plans
Heritage Interpretation works	Yes	Key heritage features restored and interpreted. Heritage walks created. Information lecterns designed ready for installation. Heritage trails inputted on augmented reality app. 'Shoddy to Superb' – heritage exhibition. 'Community Quilt Project'
Regular visitor surveys undertaken	Yes	Visitor surveys taken throughout the project, also monthly head-counts and attendance at events and activities

		logged to inform data collection.
Deliver Environmental awareness events	Yes	Creation of Tree Trail uploaded to SPRYTAR app. EVENTS -Bio blitz, building bat houses, secret life of trees, bird watches, hibernation, frog trails, bird feeders, secret life of bees, tree planting, terrace planting, re-landscaping projects. The Big Dig
MARKETING and PLANNING		NOTES and EXAMPLES
Work with partners to actively and positively promote the Park and invisible heritage	Yes	Events programme delivered through partnership working, Augmented Reality App, Posters, Notice Boards, Parklife leaflet, What's On Guide, 'Friends Of' volunteers, youth planning group
Social media marketing for the Park	Yes	Social media utilised to promote Park and activities
TRAINING and SKILLS DEVELOPMENT		
Undertake skills audit with volunteers and workforce	Yes	SDDC Grounds Maintenance Team training programme. Community Engagement Officer identified training needs and opportunities for volunteers
Provide training as identified	Yes	Volunteers have taken part in City and Guilds qualifications, work experience, Prince's Trust Training Programme, Events Management Training, Use of Social Media training. Teachers and pupils were trained in Maypole dancing.

Learn new skills	Yes	<p>Youth planning group planned and supported delivery of Youth Event. Helped with marketing and practical skills such as sign-making.</p> <p>Prince's Trust – gardening skills</p> <p>DART volunteers - maintenance work, tree planting, fencing, stone building, laying turf.</p> <p>Schools –Maypole dancing, orienteering, tennis, bowls</p> <p>Chameleon School of Construction – building of Memorial Garden</p> <p>The Big Dig – archaeological research community event</p>
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Table 3 –Activity Log 2018

DATE	VENUE	ACTIVITY	PARTNERS			
Feb 5 th '18	Pingle	Youth planning	Pingle School	1 1		Participation and Learning (PandL)
Feb 9 th 2018	Pingle	Youth Planning		9		P and L
Jan 18 th 2018	Railway	Friends of the Park meeting		7		PandL
Feb 12 th 2018	Railway	Friends of		7		
March 12 th 2018	Pingle	Planning group		1 3		PandL
March 12 th 2018	Railway	Friends of		5		PandL
March 16 th 2018	Pingle	Planning group		1 0		PandL
March 15 th 2018	Elmsleigh and Springfield schools	Maypole Dance training	Elmsleigh and Springfield schools		100	PandL
March 20 th '18	Springfield	Maypole rehearsal			50	PandL

March 22nd	Elmsleigh	Maypole rehearsal			48	PandL
April 10th	Civic offices	Youth event partners meeting	Youth Service, sports team, Tribal Vibes		12	PandL
April 10th	Springfield	Maypole			50	"
April 12th	Elmsleigh	Maypole			50	"
April 16th	Pingle	Youth planning Group			9	"
April 17th	Springfield	Maypole			50	"
April 19th	Elmsleigh	Maypole			47	"
April 20th	Pingle	Youth planning group	Pingle School		8	"
April 20th	Eureka Park	Breathe Event	HomeStart		19	"
April 23rd	Railway	Friends of meeting		1 1		"
April 24 th	Springfield	Maypole	Schools		49	"
April 26th	Elmsleigh	Maypole	Schools		50	
April 30 th	Pingle	Sign making workshop	Youth planning group – Pingle School	8		"
May 1st	Eureka	Maypole Display		1	250	"
May 3rd	Railway	Users Forum meeting	Bowls, netball and football clubs		5	PandL
May 8th	Civic offices	Partners youth planning meeting	Youth service, MAT team, Sports Team, Tribal		12	PandL

			Vibes			
May 14th	Pingle	Sign making workshop	Youth planning group – Pingle School	8		PandL
May 21 st	Pingle	Sign making	As above	8		PandL
May 21 st , 22 nd , 23 rd and 24th	Pingle	Promoting Youth Event in Assembly's	Pingle School		700	
May 22nd	Eureka	Choir in the Park	South Derbyshire music centre, sing 4 health, Springfield School, Leaside Singers		300	P
May 30th	Eureka	Youth Event	MAT Team, SDDC Sports team, Tribal Vibes, Friends of Eureka		150	PandL
June 5th	Eureka	Book start Event	Library service		60	PandL
June 26 th	Eureka	Belmont School sports			300	P
June 27th	Eureka	Belmont school sports			120	P
July 4 th	Eureka	St. Edwards school sports			100	P

July 4th	Eureka	Outdoor gym group	Friends of Eureka		6	P
July 10th	Eureka	Storytime at the Sundial	Friends of Eureka		12	PandL
July 17th	Eureka	Storytime at the Sundial	As above		15	PandL
July 23rd	Eureka	SDDC Sports Playscheme	Friends of eureka		286	PandL
July 24th	Eureka	Storytime at the sundial	As above		32	PandL
July 31st	Eureka	Storytime at the sundial	As above		26	PandL
Aug 2nd	Eureka	SDDC play scheme			91	PandL
Aug 3rd	Eureka	The Big Latch on	Derbyshire breastfeed Group, Surestart children's centre, NHS	8	76	PandL
Aug 7th	Eureka	Storytime at the sundial	Friends of Eureka		16	PandL
Aug 9th	Eureka	Reading challenge event	Library Service		46	PandL
Aug 14th	Eureka	Storytime at the Sundial and Play mobile	Friends of Eureka		117	PandL
September 9th	Eureka	Bark in the Park	RSPCA, Friends of eureka	35	600	PandL
October 1st	The Railway Inn	Friends of the Park meeting		5		PandL
November 3rd	Eureka	Memorial garden dedication	Royal British legion, ATC, SDDC Events team	15	45	PandL
Nov 11th	Eureka	Remembrance service	RBL, ATC		1000	PandL
Nov 11th	Eureka	Beacon Lighting	RBL, ATC		500	P

Decemb er 1 st 2018	The Railway Inn	Film making	Derby Film Makers, Friends of Eureka	1 5	15	PandL
April '18 – Decemb er '18	Eureka	Parklife activities	Park Life Officer		162 total Apri l -Dec	PandL
Jan '18- Dec '18 Swad Buggy Walk	Swadlincote / Eureka	Swadlincote Buggy walk	Get Active in the Forest	1	108	P
						Total 5850