

REPORT TO:	Housing & Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	7th February 2013	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Mark Alflat Director of Operations	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Zoë Sewter, Open Space & Facilities Development Manager, ext 5753. zoe.sewter@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Eureka Park Heritage Lottery Funding	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Swadlincote, Midway	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HC07

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 N/A.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

2.1.1 Accept the grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund for £547,316 and seek permission to start

2.1.2 Approve the recruitment of a Community Engagement Officer, funded by the grant, to deliver the project

3.0 Purpose of Report

3.1 In December 2012, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant to South Derbyshire District Council for the refurbishment of Eureka Park, and an associated community engagement project. The report is to apprise Members of the project and to seek approval of the recommendations to accept the grant offer and recruit a community Engagement Officer funded by the grant.

4.0 Executive Summary

The Project is to restore and repair the heritage features of Eureka Park and deliver a community engagement programme to explore and celebrate the development of the Park and its significance in local culture.

This project will restore the historic elements of the park by delivering the heritage aspects of the masterplan. Alongside the physical restoration work, there will be a supporting community programme, to rediscover the "Invisible Heritage" of the Park.

A new Community Engagement Officer recruited to the project will work with the park staff, Friends of Eureka Park and local groups to engage and involve a wide range of

local people in the development and management of Eureka Park. Their role will be to deliver a five-year Activity Plan of community engagement work on the Park.

The grant awarded is for a maximum of £547,316 for the restoration of heritage features of Eureka Park and a supporting five-year community engagement programme, towards a scheme with a total value of £828,832. See project budget at Appendix A.

5.0 Detail

- 5.1 Work on developing this project began in 2007, when the Council was awarded a Project Development Grant to work with the local community to draw up a refurbishment plan for the Park.
- 5.2 Extensive community consultation and engagement was carried out, alongside survey and design work. An application was made to HLF in 2008 for a project in excess of £1million, which was rejected.
- 5.3 The project was revisited, and submitted as a Stage One application in 2010, which was approved and more consultation, design and development work was carried out to prepare a Stage Two application. This entailed substantial work with officers and consultants, and an application was submitted in August 2012. The board of Trustees approved the grant in December 2012.
- 5.4 The long-term objectives of the project are:
 1. To restore, interpret and improve the heritage, environmental and horticultural features of the Park through the delivery of the Landscape Masterplan (see plan at Appendix B)
 2. To increase the sustainability of the park by improving the skills of the workforce and volunteers through training and supervision
 3. To carry out the proposed refurbishment of play and sports facilities and provide an improved and inclusive offer for local people, schools, sports clubs and organisations
 4. To increase the activities of the Friends of Eureka Park through the delivery of the Activity Plan and providing more support and opportunities for involvement
 5. To increase customer satisfaction with the park by working with partners in engaging young people in the process of change and responsible use of the park
 6. To produce a range of improved publicity and marketing material for the park and its heritage
 7. To protect the heritage and to continue to improve the quality of the maintenance and management of Eureka Park through the adoption and delivery of the ten-year Management Plan
 8. To attain (and subsequently retain) Green Flag status for the Park as a recognised quality standard

In achieving these aims, the following work will be undertaken:

Restoration and refurbishment of key heritage features within the park.

The project will restore the character and historic interest of Eureka Park and to interpret those which are long gone, including the floral clock, amphitheatre, colliery site, rose garden, stone terraces, water cascades, paddling pool, commemorative tree avenues and Memorial gates and entrance features.

There are also footpath improvements and other works associated with the project, including new planting, recreation facility improvements and footpath and access improvements. This work will be designed and delivered by external Landscape Consultants and Contractors, with input from the local community.

Community Engagement Programme, "Invisible Heritage".

This project is designed to capture a wide variety of participants and will support the delivery of the capital programme, and bring opportunities for public involvement and engagement over the long term. The rationale behind the engagement programme is to capture the "Invisible Heritage" - that which has been lost over time and relates to the social history of the area. The information gathered will be held in repository at Magic Attic and as an online archive. It will also provide support and be the focus for the revitalised Friends of Eureka Park to help the sustainability of the group beyond the life of the project.

Working with local people, schools, community groups, clubs and organisations, there will be a programme of activity delivered by project staff and partners including:

- Oral History/Intragenerational work
- Heritage research to provide interpretive materials, leaflets and displays
- Storytelling and Heritage walks
- Design competitions
- Conservation action days and planting events
- Volunteer and staff training
- Sports and cultural events

The project will explore and celebrate the Park's lost heritage and help to create a new enthusiasm for becoming involved in its future development. It will achieve the vision *"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"*.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The grant funding for the project will be claimed in arrears, on proof of expenditure. There will therefore be a cash flow consideration in the case of large invoices, particularly in respect of the capital works. The budget will be carefully planned out, as a requirement of the HLF grant is to provide a cashflow projection for the duration of the project.

The costs for the project were prepared by Landscape Consultants and include contingency sums in case of unanticipated expenditure. Cost control will be paramount and frequent monitoring of the project budget will be carried out.

- 6.3 This project demonstrates excellent value for money. The match funding for the project has been identified from existing Section 106 contributions, the use of which was approved at a previous committee meeting in October 2008, non-cash contributions in the form of arboricultural work carried out by our in-house Tree Gang and volunteer time generated from community engagement in the project.

7.0 Corporate Implications

- 7.1 The project delivers against the Corporate Plan under the theme “Lifestyle Choices”, improving the health and wellbeing of our residents. The capital works will help to improve the facilities on offer within the Park, attracting more people to use the park and enhancing the character and heritage of the area. The community engagement work will engage more people and get them involved with the management and development of the park. It will deliver better leisure opportunities and increase cultural activity, in line with the outcomes of the plan.
- 7.2 Legal implications - none.
- 7.3 Employment Implications – the project requires the recruitment of a new Community Engagement Officer, whose remit will be to deliver a five year activity plan relating to the park and its heritage, and re-establish and develop a Friends of the Park group. The post will be full-time for the first two years, reducing to four days a week for years 3 & 4 and three days a week in year 5. The post will be widely advertised, in accordance with HLF requirements, and the post is fully funded by the grant.
- 7.4 A joint press release with the HLF has been widely circulated to inform people nationally and locally of the success of the application. A communications schedule will be developed for the project, which will inform people of progress of the project, advertise opportunities to get involved and engage, and publicise events.

8.0 Community Implications

- 8.1 The delivery of the project has been designed to provide as many opportunities to engage as wide a sector of the local community as possible. There are outcomes relating to skills development, training, participation, volunteering and celebration. The key to community engagement is the provision of a new post, that of Community Engagement Officer, funded by the grant, to deliver a five year activity plan based around the cultural heritage of the park, and will increase participation and involvement.
- 8.2 In particular it will deliver the following actions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy:
- 8.2.1 Through the delivery of the community engagement project there will be opportunities for increased participation in voluntary and community action
 - 8.2.2 Through the delivery of the maintenance and management plan we will improve the management of open space to benefit people and wildlife
 - 8.2.3 Actively work in partnership and provide opportunities to get involved
 - 8.2.4 Increase the number of cultural activities and increase the number of people taking part
 - 8.2.5 Stage events that use cultural activities to engage residents in education and training

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 This project represents excellent value for money, has wide-reaching community benefits and will enable significant improvements to an important open space facility.