

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Report to the LSP Board

Date of meeting: 24 June 2009

Agenda Item: 8

Breath of Fresh Air (BOFA), The Cultural Olympiad and Rosliston/The National Forest

Issue

To inform the Board of recent success in attracting funding to create a legacy from the 2012 Olympics in South Derbyshire and request matched funding for a Cultural Olympiad event at Rosliston in July 2009.

Background

Working with the Big Lottery Fund, Groundwork East Midlands secured £100,000 to support projects aimed at creating an Olympic legacy on in region over the period up to 2012. Branded, Breath of Fresh Air (BOFA) the concept is to support projects to leave a legacy of self sustaining open air activities which fit one or more agreed themes;

- Living Landscape
- Health and Activity
- Culture and Community.

In addition, each activity was to encourage opportunity for community engagement and volunteering, with training provision and to provide a celebratory event of county significance, which will incorporate a high quality arts/physical activity element and will increase visitor numbers to the sites.

The National Forest Company, working with SDDC and Rosliston Forestry Centre successfully submitted a bid which resulted in approval of a four year programme, involving weeklong community-based activities culminating in a weekend event at Rosliston Forestry Centre, in the summer of each of the four years leading up to 2012. In addition, it is intended to promote musical and cultural events in "The Glade" arena, to make links with the National Forest Walking Festival or the Swadfest Arts Festival and to install a feature sculpture at the centre.

BOFA is linked with the Cultural Olympiad which is intended to become the largest ever celebration of culture that has been seen in the region. As well as the BOFA programme, the idea is to use Rosliston in July 2009 to promote the EM Cultural Olympiad at an event on over the weekend Friday/Saturday/Sunday (24 - 26th July).

In terms of funding, BOFA will provide £12,000 which will be matched by The National Forest Company over the period up to 2012. Emda, is to provide £5,000 to support the Cultural Olympiad launch event in July.

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Proposed breakdown of current budget.

	BOFA/NFC	LSP	Total
	£	£	£
2009	3000(+£5000 emda)	2000 (approved)	10000
2010	6000	2000 (TBC)	8000
2011	6000	2000 (TBC)	8000
2012	6000	2000 (TBC)	8000
Public Art	3000		3000
Totals	£24000(+£5000 emda)	£8000	£37000

Thus a £37,000 programme, which has the potential to attract further funding, has been developed subject to a possible commitment of £8,000 over four years. (LSP to be approached on an annual basis).

Details of planned activities

The BOFA programme will be launched at Rosliston at a stakeholder launch event on Friday 24th July. Local community arts & cultural groups from South Derbyshire will be present to demonstrate and show their work, as well as demonstrations by Rosliston/SDDC staff of sporting and play provision such as archery, climbing, guided walks and cycling. The weekend will be part of the national 'open weekend' programme as part of the Cultural Olympiad, and Rosliston, the environmental education project and 'Get Active in the Forest' will be asked to expand their programme incrementally leading up to the 2012 games.

The emphasis on volunteering and sustainability will allow Rosliston to work with local communities, voluntary/community groups and professional artists. Several sites or projects have already been earmarked for longer-term developmental projects that will benefit greatly from the BOFA funding, and allow existing projects to be expanded with additional participation, skill sharing and volunteering opportunities.

These include the sensory garden, which will be re-established and improved in an action research project working with people with sensory impairments and professional artists, a series of commissioned works for installation at Rosliston with accompanying community workshops such as mosaic schemes and willow/wood sculptures. A new partnership with Derbyshire County Council will establish a series of poetry/spoken word activities with the Derbyshire Poet laureate, the endgame of which will be the establishment of a poetry or riddle trail designed especially for young people.

The Glade in the Forest, a new outdoor arena and stage, will also benefit from the longer-term plans, with the BOFA programme funding complementing the current work to establish the Glade as a venue to develop audiences for the performing

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arts. The original BOFA bid included provision for a concert which could result in a series of choral concerts with new commissions or youth music allowing new younger audiences to access Rosliston.

People Express, South Derbyshire's only professional community combined arts company, have already expressed interest in helping Rosliston to establish a series of arts interventions, projects and residencies exploring creativity in a sustainable context. People Express have a track record of working with excluded and diverse groups and will be a key partner in ensuring that the legacy of the BOFA programme will include groups at risk of exclusion such as BME groups, disability groups and disaffected young people.

It is important to note that the four-year funding allows Rosliston to continue to develop new partnerships, activities and events, with participation, access and sustainability at their core. By the end of the programme and the 2012 games, Rosliston will have developed new audiences, volunteers and a profile for programming high-quality arts, sporting and cultural activities in green spaces.

Fit with the Sustainable Community Strategy and Action Plan

The project has been identified by the Vibrant Communities Theme Group as a key project for the next 4 years as it pulls together the areas of culture, physical activity, volunteering and the 2012 Olympics into one project.

The event could also develop as the Partnerships principle community event with the opportunities for consultation and celebrating the achievements of the Partnership.

Recommendation

The LSP Board is requested to note the Project and where possible support its delivery over the next 4 years.

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