

22 January 2014

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STREETSCENE

Rectory Park Regeneration – Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Application Information Report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Rectory Park Regeneration Project including the aim of the project, the HLF Application process and key activities which cut across the work of both the Place and People Boards and also the VCS Network.

2. Background

- 2.1 Rectory Park in Houghton-le-Spring is maintained by Sunderland City Council and is supported by a very active Friends group. The project will renovate the park, restore key heritage features and raise awareness of the rich heritage value of the park.

3. Project Aim

- 3.1 The aim for the Rectory Park Regeneration Project is: 'To restore and protect the heritage value and landscape of the park, enhance amenities and improve the visitor appreciation and understanding of the park, so that people now and in the future can enjoy it'.
- 3.2 Renovation of historic features alongside the provision of amenities will provide a basis for increased visitor numbers to enable the true heritage value of this historic park to be celebrated and valued.

4. HLF Application Process

- 4.1 In October 2013 a Pre-application was submitted to HLF to provide an outline of the project in order to obtain an indication as to whether a full application would meet the award criteria. The feedback received was positive and provided approval to progress to Stage 1.
- 4.2 A Project Team was established and activity is now underway to develop the application with the deadline to submit the Stage 1 Application being 31st August 2014
- 4.3 The result of the Stage 1 application will be announced by HLF in December 2014
- 4.4 Activity will commence on the Stage 2 application in January 2015 – following a positive Stage 1 result

- 4.5 The final Stage 2 application will be submitted in April 2015
- 4.6 In the event that the Stage 2 application is approved and funding is awarded, work will commence on site.

5 Key Activities

- 5.1 The following key activities are underway or planned as part of the Stage 1 application process:
- Consultation and engagement with Stakeholder Groups (more than 60 organisations identified) to obtain suggestions for improvement and to collect images and memories of the park to inform the future design.
 - Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Rectory Park (January)
 - Archaeological Building Recording and Statement of Significance of the tithe barn, Rectory Park (January). This will help to identify a sustainable future use
 - Topographical Surveys and Ecology Surveys (January – July)
 - Interim Management Plan including a record of work planned and a monitoring programme for the barn

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Agree to receive further reports on the progress of the project

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