

Application No.1 – SIB

Funding Source	SIB
Name of Project	Thompson Park House Project
Lead Organisation	Sunderland Young People's Bike Project

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£79,700	£54,700	£25,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 Years	April 2014	March 2016

The Project

The Project will enable the commencement of the development of the empty derelict property situated at the entrance of Thompson Park into a multi-purpose facility to provide a community amenity to local residents.

The feasibility element of the project will actively identify and develop funding streams to ensure the long term sustainability of the project and employ and manage sessional workers to facilitate this. Local volunteers will be recruited to extend their capacity, skills and knowledge of the local area to reach into the community and encourage participation. The project will develop and implement new ideas and initiatives based on the needs of the people accessing the facility and plans will be developed for redesign of the facility to ensure it offers services and activities which meet the needs of the community.

A community café will be developed to enable residents to come together to meet or make new friends, which would also generate an income which would help sustain running's costs. Partnerships will be formed with user groups i.e. Heritage Group/Bowls Club/LA to develop training and educational programmes relevant to service users i.e. cycle maintenance courses/history-heritage lessons/dog training classes/map reading lessons/first aid/H&S courses etc. To promote health and fitness safe cycling using new and existing recognised routes will be delivered, and a new technical and skills area around the park site will be developed. A play ranger programme will be delivered which will engage children and young people during school holidays and weekend periods. This provision will also be available at times when other events and attractions take place on park grounds. The project aims to become part of the Active Sunderland Network to ensure partnership working with Sunderland City Council Sport & Leisure and to help in promoting the project with the aim of increasing levels of participation.

The project will work with the parks department to help maintain and improve existing walkways. Local schools and youth providers will be encouraged to visit the park and utilise the facilities by developing an activity day/weekend programme.

The facility will provide access to public/disabled toilets which would be open and readily available to members of the public whenever the premises were in use. A daily presence will provide additional security to the park deterring anti- social behaviour/crime.

The park is never used to its full potential, with playing fields only used on occasional evenings and weekends for organised football matches. The open space will be utilised by working in partnership with other community groups or service providers to deliver dog training classes, nature walks, map reading lessons etc. The project will work in partnership with youth groups and develop holiday activity programmes to encourage participation in old traditional street games such as rounder's, skipping, hula-hoop etc.

Safe cycling will be promoted and development of interest in local cycle routes including bike maintenance courses. Partnerships will be developed with the local heritage group who can provide an insight into the local area and the history of Thompson Park.

Currently young people use the park to drink alcohol in isolated areas, leaving behind empty bottles and rubbish, with a number of youth related incidents reported to the local community police team. These young people will be encouraged to use the facility and become involved in the development of the park giving them the opportunity to take some pride and ownership of their area.

At present the only toilet facility available to the general public is in the bowling club, which is only open when there are matches; there are no disabled toilets available at all. Access to toilet facilities will be provided whenever the building is in operation (six days a week from 9.00-4.30)

The facilities would be available to all members of the community with an emphasis on developing relationships with local schools and youth projects; this will help develop young people's interest in the park allowing them to take some ownership and pride in their local area.

The Need for the Project

Consultation has been held with local residents and passing pedestrians to ascertain if there is a need for a community facility within the area. Consultation has established there is a distinct lack of local amenities and access to and usage of green space. We established many elderly residents no longer know their neighbours and were at a loss where to meet or make new friends. A community facility would enable residents to come together to build stronger bonds and develop a supporting network, preventing isolation by participating and contributing to community life. Young and old alike would have access to the facilities that would bring generations together to share skills and abilities.

In the development of the project engagement will be held with people who already have an existing interest in the use of the park to enable them to become more effective in addressing issues regarding current non-use of the property. Partnerships will be developed with all existing and prospective users of the building, ensuring the development of the area is achieved in a harmonious and cost effective manner to establish which services are needed, wanted and appropriate.

SYBPB has undertaken preliminary consultation within the area to gather sound bite feedback. The project has consulted with local youth providers (SNYP/SNCBC) who currently work with young people from across the north of the city. They fully endorse the proposal of the project and agree young people would respond to environmental projects and sporting activities taking place during holiday periods. We have already worked with a group of 8 young people from SNYP who have expressed an interest in outdoor activities but have limited resources and equipment to participate in physical exercise.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	1
A5	Number of project feasibility studies funded	1
L3	Number of activities for children and young people being delivered during school holidays	60
L4	Number of children and young people participating in activities	125

	during school holidays	
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Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Feasibility Study Completed	31/07/2014
Public/Disabled Toilets Installed	31/10/2014
Sessional Workers Appointed	01/04/2015
Holiday Activities Delivered	01/04/2015

Recommend – Approve subject to the following conditions:

- £5,000 for feasibility study is released and release of remaining funding is subject to confirmation of match funding in place
- Milestone for installation of Toilets to be moved to March 2015 in order to ensure match funding is in place for the refurbishment of the building.

The project will deliver against the priorities of activities for young people and accessibility of services and facilities.