

Executive Summary
Applications for WAC Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme

Proposals to align Neighbourhood Capital Investment Funds

1. Invest in Parks

TG2 met in January to identify how to build on the Area Committee decision (December Committee) to continue the work already funded and supported and determine any new proposals for enhancement to parks and play facilities. Updates with regards proposals for Usworth Park and Princess Anne Park were presented to February Board:

Usworth Park Development Plan

Proposed Activity/Activity to be delivered	Commentary
Create a community garden	Proposal for further investment
Develop an events space	Proposal for further investment
Condition survey of pavilion with view to repurpose as community base/cafe	Proposal for further investment
Arts Project for Pavillion	Proposal for further investment
Creation of wildlife or sensory garden or memorial garden	Proposal for further investment
Better signage both in and outside of park	Proposal for further investment

Review of Princess Anne Park Master Plan

Proposed Activity	Commentary
Short Term activity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacement of park notice boards and Walk / cycle paths to be sign posted• Installation of new street furniture throughout the site• Bat/bird boxes - this should be quite an easy thing to do.• Repair closed footpath• Stairs in the northern part of the site to be repaired• Thin existing woodland plantations	<p>Full site check to determine how many? Assumed 7 across the site. To remove existing and replace with new approx. £10,000. Based on using metal notice boards. 35 x new sign-posts required (based on locating signs at entrances and path junctions) To install new metal finger posts would cost approx. £17,500</p> <p>Final locations to be agreed with friend's group but allow for £10,000 at this stage Allow £5000 for bat/bird and other animal housing throughout the site</p> <p>1x footpath currently closed because of condition requires resurface entire path (not patching up damaged sections). To remove existing surfacing and resurface tarmac path would cost approx. £15,000</p> <p>Circa £10,000</p> <p>Numerous areas across the site where self-sown willow and sycamore are overgrown. Also areas of self-sown ash affected by ash</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop woodland edge planting 	<p>die back disease (Chalara). Both the self-sown willow and sycamore should be removed as should the ash. Estimated cost 3 weeks work at £800 a day. This would amount to £12,000.</p> <p>Native understorey planting. A simple cost-effective method - to plant native woodland plug plants. Allow £5000 at this stage. Total = £84,500</p>
<p>Medium term activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting Creation of a meadow area on Flag Pole Hill. Youth shelter Ensure the play area is in good repair Repairs to footpaths throughout the site and improve drainage where required - difficult to quantify. Improvement of stream banks Water flow look at stream modification/slow flow/ stream engineering to avoid erosion and use of plants to cleanse water 	<p>It is difficult to quantify how much new lighting is required and what existing lighting there is. Request quote/survey? Allow £30,000</p> <p>Take time to get established but could possibly be achieved through maintenance of the existing grass sward. Some clearance, over seeding and planting would be required. Allow £5000 at this stage</p> <p>£15,000</p> <p>Fix damaged pieces of equipment or completely replace. Allow £50,000 to replace. * Needs to be considered as part of the Fixed Play Condition Survey and Costings</p> <p>Allow £50,000 – identify what is already in place for drainage and footpath maintenance re SCC budgets. Phased programme?</p> <p>Existing stream banks have become eroded and would benefit from stabilising. Previously been done using willow and other natural materials. Allow for £20,000 at this stage.</p> <p>Further to the point above it would be good to identify areas of the existing stream which could be altered to avoid erosion and clean the water. Modifications could also help to resolve potential flooding issues downstream. It would be worth speaking to our drainage engineers about this. In terms of cost this is difficult to estimate but at this stage allow for £50,000 Total = £220,000</p>
<p>Additional maintenance/management activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orchid/ cowslip areas maintained 	<p>Request Environmental Services confirm if any activity already part of the Washington Environmental Services Maintenance Plan?</p> <p>Area of orchids identified on site during previous visit. It is unclear whether these are still growing as the area has become overgrown with taller species. Need to cut</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of fenland - as with the area of orchids the fenland has become overgrown and is now inhabited by self-sown tree species and willow herb. If not removed the self-sown trees will drain the site making this valuable habitat unviable. Immediate work should involve removal of self-sown trees and willow herb by hand. This should/could be done as part of the existing maintenance regime. Future maintenance work could then be set out in the habitat management plan. 	back all tall vegetation and remove from site before March. If the orchids are still evident then they should be allowed to grow until after flowering with a further cut being carried out in September. All arising should be removed. This would need to be an ongoing process over a period of years. If site is already maintained need to ensure maintenance teams are aware of existing habitats. This is the case with a lot of the habitats on site and so it might be worth allocating a set budget for specific maintenance operations, over and above the standard operations. To assist with this a habitat management plan should be produced. This would cost approximately £2200 and is probably worth doing as soon as possible. Additional £2200
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Members also want to understand where SCC might contribute to some of the measures – whether that be through current budgets or new funds for parks and work together to deliver the projects. Should Area Committee approve the alignment of capital funding, Officers are invited to attend future Task Group/April Board to commence planning the projects.

Recommendation:

1. **Align £50,000 Capital Investment funds to contribute to delivering the Usworth Park Development Plan**
2. **Align £50,000 Capital Investment funds to contribute to delivering the Usworth Park Development Plan**

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval of this project, which delivers to the Washington Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of Invest in Parks

2. Invest in Play

TG2 met in January to discuss investing in both Washington Parks and Play facilities. The Fixed Play Survey (Washington) was presented and discussed at the February Board. The Board requests the March Area Committee to align Neighbourhood Investment Capital to contribute to implementation of proposals identified in the Fixed Play Survey as presented. The Board proposes WAC funding to enhance SCC investment in fixed play sites in Washington, which includes S106 already aligned to Washington Central and Washington West sites.

Recommendation: Align £80,000

The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval of this project, which delivers to the Washington Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of Invest in Play

Proposals to approve Washington Neighbourhood Capital Investment funds:

Application No. 1

Funding Source	Neighbourhood Capital Investment
Name of Project	Bowes Rope Haulage Project
Lead Organisation	Bowes Railway Museum

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total NF Application
£61,800	£1,800	£60,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
9 months	April 2021	December 2021

Information is taken verbatim from the application form.

Project Description: Bowes Railway Company Limited (BRC) is situated in Springwell, Tyne and Wear and historically was the first industrial site to be recognised as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is listed on the heritage at risk register and is an Accredited Museum which is a previous Colliery site and has the only national example of a partially preserved rope haulage transport system. This project requests support for capital funding to carry out repairs and upgrades to the Springwell Hauler compound site, specifically by replacing timbers that have been removed during lockdown as a result of anti-social behaviour, restoring the guide rope system, replacing several sleepers and carrying out track realignment activities, replacing a number of small broken panes of glass, restoring paintwork and replacing the security fencing to the rear of the site which has become dilapidated and is allowing trespass. The project responds to the regional objective to protect historic places and keep them alive for current and future generations and build capacity in local communities to support access to that heritage and the local aim to preserve and celebrate local heritage. Further it links with the outcomes of the recent Let's Talk public consultations which identify the importance of heritage assets to Washington residents.

BRC will appoint a suitably qualified and experienced accredited conservation architect to produce a condition survey of the site, identifying the specific costs for each item of the works and producing the specification of heritage techniques that will need to be adopted and considered in carrying out the works. This information will be used as the basis for the tender to secure relevantly experienced heritage contractors. The Conservation Architect will support Bowes in documenting and submitting the required Schedule Monument approval to carry out the works, for submission to the Secretary of State. We have had initial verbal discussions with surveyors and Architects to set the budgets outlined in this application, but the condition survey will need to be undertaken to ascertain the accuracy of these and any specific heritage related requirements and the impact of covid in sourcing materials etc.

BRC have been working closely with colleagues from Historic England over the last 3 years with a view to fully restoring the Rope Haulage System. They invested significantly in Blackhams Hauler 10 years ago restoring the Hauler House equipment. They have also recently invested £18,000 to enable a comprehensive survey of the track and structures from Blackhams Hauler down to the Blackwell Hauler House and we have over the eighteen months been discussing in detail with them a revenue application in the region of £40,000 to support a training programme for volunteers. Bowes currently have 35 volunteers regularly attending and they carry out a range of site maintenance tasks. The Historic England investment would provide specific skills training in maintenance and repair of the trackside features including retaining walls, return wheels and track features in the area down from Blackhams to Blackfell

Hauler, which is outside the scope of this application. The contractors undertaking the capital works will be required to support this approach and engage volunteers in the process and support them to learn the skills to effectively maintain and sustain the haulage and platform structures. The investment requested will enhance the experience for local residents, the wider Sunderland community, the many local walkers who visit the green spaces around the site by making the site safe and easy to access and in turn will contribute to the longer term aim of actively using the hauler structures within the monument for public demonstrations of haulage and enabling Bowes to aspire to be one of the top tourist attractions in the North-East.

We recognise the opportunities to engage with others to develop the project and have met and discussed partnership working with Tanfield Railway, Sunderland University and Gateshead College rail training department.

Bowes, like many businesses in the North-East has been hit hard by the covid19 pandemic and have remain closed since March 2020, with intermittent volunteering to carry out essential works. Trustees recognise the sustainability of the business model relies heavily on the delivery of events and activities. While there has been a successful transition over the last year to creating a digital offer, we feel we need to encompass additional elements of the site in telling the story of our heritage past and we know a virtual experience does not replace the experience of visiting site. Trustees feel the uniqueness of the rope haulage system of industrial transportation provides the greatest opportunity to attract a new and diverse audience, both locally, nationally, and internationally. We understand that there is a cohort of enthusiasts that we are not currently reaching who represent a valuable new audience for such as photo shoots, visiting exhibitions etc. The project will be led by the Bowes Railway Company Secretary, Leon Walsh, who is an experienced Heritage Senior Surveyor in partnership Dave Hall the Chairperson. Trustees also recognise the opportunity to match any funding into a wider Heritage Fund application.

Partnership: Bowes Railway Company Limited have worked hard over the last five years to build effective partnership networks and delivery arrangements. We are now recognised as an active member of the Springwell Community and work closely with Springwell Village Residents and Springwell Community Venue to hold the 1940s weekend. We regularly attend the Washington VCS network, regional heritage forms and Tyne and Wear Archive and Museums training and events. Over the last two years we have forged effective partnerships with Tanfield Railway, Gateshead and Newcastle Colleges, Sunderland and Durham Universities and a range of local primary and secondary schools who have visited the site and accessed our virtual learning resources.

We regularly liaise with Historic England and Sunderland Council on statutory matters and work closely with other City heritage sites including F Pit, Hylton Castle, Fulwell Windmill.

Objectives and goals	Forecast Dates
Appoint preferred Conservation Architect	15/05/21
Agree scope of the condition survey	31/05/21
Condition Survey inception, mid-term and final review	10/06/2021
Provide report and recommendations to Heritage/Area Arrangements group	01/07/2021
Draft and submit scheduled monument application	15/07/2021
Gather quotations for works to be undertaken (in line with NF requirements)	15/08/2021
Capital works commence	01/09/2021
Ongoing capital work monitoring	08/09/21 and ongoing

Capital works complete	31/10/2021
Project Delivery report provided to Heritage Group/Area Arrangements	31/12/2021

Outputs

Cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhoods		
Environmental projects delivered (i.e. cutting trees, edging paths, painting, etc.)	251	1

More residents participating in their communities		
Volunteers recruited and participating	331	
Volunteer hours delivered	332	50
Volunteer's In-Kind Contribution (hours delivered x @ £12 p.h)	333	£600

Project Management: The project will be managed by BRC Trustees who will form a steering group including our Community Heritage partner, SNCBC, the Architect and the Area Arrangements Development Lead. We will provide bi-monthly progress reports to the Heritage sub-group/Area Board/Area Committee as deemed appropriate by SCC. A project plan will be documented at the inception of the programme, reflecting the milestones set out in this application. Steering group meetings will monitor progress against those milestones and the budget set and any deviations in the timeline will require written explanation from the Architects.

Budget

Item and Description	Total Costs	Match Costs	NCIP Contribution
Conservation Architect	10200	0	10200
Timber replacement to platform	5976	0	5976
Rope guide structure repairs	12000	0	12000
Security fencing and gates	8100	0	8100
Track repairs and realignment	4500	0	4500
Equipment testing/servicing	8900	0	8900
Paint work	7250	0	7250
Small tools and equipment for volunteer training	1200	0	1200
Contingency	1874	0	1874
Project Management - BRC	1800	1800	0
Total	61,800	1,800	60,000

Recommendation – Approve

1. The Neighbourhood and Community Board recommend approval of this project, which delivers to the Washington Area Investment Delivery Plan Priority of Invest in community heritage and celebrate local heritage