

**Report to the Ernest Stevens Trust 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Report of the Strategic Director PLACE**

**Stevens Park, Quarry Bank**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Trust on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Stevens Park Quarry Bank which has passed the first approval stage, and will now enter the planning and development phase.

**Stevens Trust, Quarry Bank**

2. The Friends of Stevens Park Quarry Bank have been working with the Local Authority for many years now in order to restore the park and develop its Heritage features for community benefit. A bid to the Heritage Lottery fund was made unsuccessfully in Feb 2016, and a further bid was made in August 2016 which has been successful. The Local Authority were notified in December 2016, and promotion in the local press was approved in early January 17.
3. The main focus for the Friends of the Park is the White house and plans have been developed and public consultation carried out in 2014. The White house development will make a significant improvement to the park, acting as a hub for activity and providing a meeting space, training centre and community cafe. The designs for the White house were presented to the Ernest Stevens Trust in July 2016.
4. Research into which voluntary sector partners would be able to assist on this project has taken place in order to help to make this project sustainable. A number of organisations have shown an interest in this project. Partnerships with these organisations will be developed as part of the next phase of the project.
5. Heritage Lottery Fund have approved the funding for the planning and development phase of the project which is £155,681. This funding will be mainly spent on Architects, surveyors and Landscape Architects fees to develop the second stage of the bid which will draw down the funding for the delivery stage award of £1.59m
6. The delivery stage of the project will restore other areas of the Park such as the Peace gardens, entrance gates, bandstand, boundaries, paths, benches and trees. There will also be a horticultural training programme developed as part of the project.

7. Heritage Lottery Fund are very keen to see the Local Authority work closely with the voluntary sector in partnership. DMBC would like to develop the community council concept in order to run a community facility within the building and to make the park thrive. It is suggested that a lease arrangement with the council maybe the best way forward for this partnership to operate successfully.
8. The Ernest Stevens Trust will need to consider whether a lease with a voluntary sector organisation to develop sustainable solutions to the long term maintenance of Tintern House is the best way forward.

### **Finance**

9. A new use for the building will hopefully breathe life into the park and reduce the risk of antisocial behaviour on the park. Thus reducing the maintenance costs for the Council
10. The volunteer time from the Friends and other volunteers will help to draw down funding, which is classed as match funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
11. Match funding of approximately 10% of the total cost has been allocated to this project through capital resources. Unlike previous HLF projects the Council has no revenue resources to commit to this project, and will therefore rely on other sources of funding from partnerships with voluntary sector organisations.

### **Law**

12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 which allows the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or conducive to the discharge of statutory functions. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which provides Councils with the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to Sections 2 to 4, and Section 105, 117-123 of the Charities Act 2011 which gives power to authorise dealings with charity property

### **Equality Impact**

13. The provision of funding for this project will enable training and development work with volunteers and young people, who might otherwise have difficulty accessing training programmes.
14. Heritage Lottery Funding and Big Lottery funding contributes towards the Parks for people programme. It is very important that the project has social outcomes such as improvements to accessing information and education. The project will provide opportunities for learning in an informal setting.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that:-
  - Trustees note the award of the development stage grant from HLF

- Trustees consider the proposal to develop a partnership with a voluntary sector body in order to improve the use of the park building. This proposal would be best developed through a lease for the building or an asset transfer arrangement, similar to the leases at Mary Stevens Centre with the voluntary sector. This lease would be subject to a scheme agreed with the Charities Commission.



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