

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		20 July 2016	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Miles Parkinson, Leader	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Craig Haraben (Acting Head of Community Services)	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Rhyddings Park Heritage Lottery Bid	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update members on the situation regarding the Heritage Lottery Bid for Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The contents of this report be noted
2. Cabinet decide whether to continue with the landscape plan as originally agreed by the National Heritage Lottery Board or whether they wish to recommend that the plan is changed in respect of the sequoia tree

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2012 the Parks & Cemetery Service started working with the Friends of (FO) Rhyddings Park to explore the possibility of applying for Parks for People funding administered via the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).
- 3.2 The outcome of a consultation with the FO Rhyddings Park showed that local residents would like to see the refurbishment of park facilities, the re-building of the coach house to provide a community base within the Park and the walled garden area refurbished and brought back into use as a community food growing area. This way forward was also supported by the local schools and GP surgeries that returned the consultation document.
- 3.3 In addition to the refurbishment work, there was a desire to have staff in place for two years after construction work had been completed to encourage participation and develop the audience of people who use the Park, including engaging with hard to reach groups. After examining the criteria for Parks for People funding it was clear that funding would be available for both the capital and revenue elements of this project.

- 3.4 Cabinet agreed on 3 December 2013 for the Council to work towards securing Parks for People funding via the HLF for Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle.
- 3.5 In early January 2016 the Council received the fantastic news that the Parks for People funding bid relating to Rhyddings Park in Oswaldtwistle had been successful. The project had been allocated £1,461,900 for the delivery stage of the project by the HLF. The total value of the project, including in-kind funding and volunteer work, is £2 Million.
- 3.6 The funding secured from the HLF will allow for:
- The restoration of the Coach House as a community venue;
 - Returning the derelict walled garden to its traditional use of food growing, including the construction of Victorian style greenhouses;
 - Working with Bootstrap Enterprises to develop a social enterprise based in the restored former Coach House, generating income for the Park from meeting rooms, a cafe and a training kitchen;
 - Creating a performance space area and develop a programme of community arts working with Hyndburn Arts at the nearby Civic Arts Theatre;
 - Establishing a training and volunteering programme linked to park management, community engagement and health promotion;
 - Providing education resources and opportunities for local schools;
 - Developing programmes of guided walks and family fun activities.
- 3.7 In addition to the funding to enable the park refurbishment, revenue funding will also be made available to employ two HLF funded staff to facilitate audience development and improved horticultural skills within Rhyddings Park.
- 3.8 In late January 2016 a petition was started on Facebook due to some local opposition to one element of the parks refurbishment, the removal of the sequoia tree to facilitate the landscape improvements to the Rhyddings Street entrance of the Park.
- 3.9 It was agreed that an independent arboricultural consultant's report would be commissioned in respect of the tree and the issue opened up for debate at Council.
- 3.10 The Issue was debated at Council on 7 July 2016 and an advisory vote taken on the subject. The results of the advisory vote were 5 voted to continue with the original plan as agreed by the national heritage lottery board, 8 voted to change the plan and retain the tree and 17 abstained.

4.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 As agreed a debate has taken place at Council on 7 July 2016

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	Outlined in the report to Council dated 7 July 2016
Legal and human rights implications	Outlined in the report to Council dated 7 July 2016
Assessment of risk	Outlined in the report to Council dated 7 July 2016
Equality and diversity implications	Not applicable

6.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985:

List of Background Papers

- 6.1 [Council Report dated 7 July 2016 titled Rhyddings Park Heritage Lottery Bid](#)
- 6.2 [Cabinet report dated 8 June 2016 titled Rhyddings Park Heritage Lottery Bid](#)
- 6.3 [Cabinet report dated 3 December 2014 titled Rhyddings Park Heritage Lottery Bid](#)

7.0 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- 7.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.