

HERMITAGE PARK, HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND APPLICATION

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update of the draft Hermitage Park vision and the subsequent application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Parks for People as recommended by Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee and approved by Council at its meeting on 14th February 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee notes the contents of this report and changed timelines for activities and budget.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Officer's have reported to Area Committee and Business Days, and consulted with Hermitage Park user groups to bring together a vision for Hermitage Park. This vision and associated budget for development and delivery costs was approved by Council on 14th February 2013.
- 3.2 Subsequently, an application was submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund for the 28th February 2013 deadline.
- 3.3 To maximise community buy-in an information day was held in partnership with Friends of Hermitage Park Association, for local community groups and schools. The aim of this was to update them on the draft final vision.
- 3.4 On 11 June 2013 a Heritage Lottery Fund assessment meeting was held at Parklands School, as well as a visit to the Park. In attendance was Colin McLean, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland, and Fiona Stenke, Grants Officer, council officers and representatives from local community groups.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 The Trustees met on 26th June to consider submissions and unfortunately the Hermitage Park bid was unsuccessful in what was a highly competitive funding round against projects from across the UK. We were informed that our bid was strong and no major changes are required. We have been invited to reapply to the next round, which has a deadline of 31 August 2013. We have sought advice on how we can improve the bid and were informed that we should focus on natural heritage. A programme of work around this is being developed, including a biodiversity study of the Park and links to the evolving green networks.
- 4.2 The new draft timeline for the application is as follows:
- 4.2.1 Draft stage one application – work in progress
 - 4.2.2 Final stage one application submitted – 31st August 2013
 - 4.2.3 Notification of development award – Dec 2013
 - 4.2.4 Development phase - appoint consultants– April 2013
 - 4.2.5 Second stage application prepared – Feb 2015
 - 4.2.6 Notification of second stage – June 2015
 - 4.2.7 Works commence on the ground – September 2015
 - 4.2.8 Project completes (revenue/interpretation/training) – 2019/2020
- 4.3 The potential external investment from HLF in creating a sustainable future for Hermitage Park is circa £2.5m from a potential total project cost of between £2.5-£2.8m. Other potential funders include Military Covenant Funding, SportScotland Funding and in-kind. The Council's funding requirement will be spread over a five year period and will total circa £250,000-£280,000. This spend will now begin 6 months later and end 6 months later.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The value and potential improvement opportunities of this project are fully supported by council and partners. An application to HLF Parks for People will be submitted for the 31st August deadline and we will receive notification in December 2013. This means a six month delay in proposed budget and activity should we be successful.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – None.
- 6.2 Financial – £20,000 is required for development funding as identified and to be allocated within the budget process for 2013/2014-2014/15. The further £250,000-£280,000 highlighted in this year's budget process for 2015/16 should be moved forward by 6 months.
- 6.3 Personnel – Possible future training and skills development prospects.

6.4 Equal Opportunities – None but the proposed improvements increases accessibility of the Park to those with mobility problems and visitors with pushchairs.

6.5 Legal - None

For further information, please contact: Tom Murphy, Streetscene Manager (01436 658908) or Arlene Cullum (01436 658727)

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