

Hermitage Park Update

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.0.1 This report provides an update on the current development phase of Hermitage Park.
- 1.0.2 A consultation on the three options for the park took place on 27th and 28th February 2015 alongside ongoing consultation with various groups and individuals.
- 1.0.3 A draft masterplan has been developed for public presentation on 29th April 2015.
- 1.0.4 A report on options for delivery of associated car parking (outwith scope of HLF funding), and also management and maintenance resourcing, will be prepared for the May 2015 business day.
- 1.0.5 A final masterplan will be presented for approval by the area committee on 9th June 2015.
- 1.0.6 The project is on track for a 31st August 2015 deadline for the application to Heritage Lottery Fund.

1.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee note the content of this report.

Hermitage Park Update

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides the Members attending the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee with an update on the current development phase of Hermitage Park. It focuses on the results of the public consultations on the three options presented to the February area committee, and a presentation on the draft masterplan based on these results which will take place on the day of the meeting.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee note the content of this report.
- 3.2 A report on options for delivery of associated car parking (outwith scope of HLF funding), and also management and maintenance resourcing, will be prepared for the May 2015 business day.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following a number of area committee and business day reports, the Heritage Lottery Board met on the 17th December 2013 and the Hermitage Park bid was awarded a first round pass and development grant. Subsequently the full council approved HLF terms of grant on 23rd January 2014.
- 4.2 Through the process all groups were supportive of the desire to improve Hermitage Park and the overall general vision and values the Friends of Hermitage Park had presented. This vision which included proposed works was detailed at the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Business Day on 14th August 2012.
- 4.3 These works include;
- 4.3.1 Restoration of historic fabric including walled memorial garden, pond and gates, old mill remains, Hermitage Well and the Millig Burn paths, bridges and walls,
 - 4.3.2 Restoration/reinterpretation of historic planting, including open up lines of site to improve safety of visitors,

- 4.3.3 Celebration of heritage through interpretation and community involvement – and upgrading of the paths and drainage to increase access to the Park,
 - 4.3.4 Reconsideration of the recreational elements which include the children’s play park, bowling green, tennis courts, putting green and recreational pavilion, shelter and toilets.
 - 4.3.5 Consideration of relevant car parking (outwith scope of HLF funding).
- 4.4 These works would meet the wider social needs of the community, allowing for traditional leisure needs, whilst encouraging use of the Park as a location for education and learning. The vision includes a greater heritage and environmental aspect to the Park, with the possibilities of interpreting the heritage and exploring the potential of community gardens, sensory gardens, increasing the habitat for wildlife, birds, etc. and minimising future maintenance requirements.
- 4.5 The timeline agreed between HLF and council officers is as follows:
- 4.5.1 Appoint consultants - 24th October 2014 - COMPLETED
 - 4.5.2 Draft masterplan for consultation - February 2015 - COMPLETED
 - 4.5.3 Final masterplan and all documents - July 2015 – ON SCHEDULE
 - 4.5.4 Second stage application prepared - August 2015
 - 4.5.5 Notification of second stage - December 2015
 - 4.5.6 Works commence on the ground - March/April 2016
 - 4.5.7 Project completes (revenue/interpretation/training) - 2019/2020.
- 4.6 The Hermitage Park Steering Group continues to meet monthly and includes representatives from The Friends of Hermitage Park Association, Schools and Youth, Ministry of Defence, Leisure Services and Helensburgh Community Council. The group is chaired by Tom Murphy, Amenity Services Manager and is governed by a partnership agreement.

5. DETAILS

- 5.1 The HLF Parks for People is a two stage application process. The first stage pass which was awarded includes a development phase to take the project to RIBA Work Stage 3 for the second stage application. The proposed final costs in stage two should not differ greatly from those proposed in stage one.
- 5.2 Work is progressing to schedule with the following milestones being met;**
- 5.2.1 Public consultation on the three options for the park, as presented to area committee in February 2015, took place on 27th and 28th February 2015 in Victoria Halls and Colquhoun Square. In addition, direct feedback was gathered from user groups and harder to reach groups, as well as from a public questionnaire.
 - 5.2.2 Results from the public questionnaire have been collated and are attached to this report. This shows the demographic of those responding and provides useful feedback on heritage, access and opportunity, facilities and events, sports and play, and planting and wildlife.

- 5.2.3 A review meeting with Heritage Lottery Fund took place on 7th April to ensure that the project was progressing as per the funding agreement and that the timescale for delivery of the final bid for 31st August 2015 is on track.
- 5.2.3 Information from the events, dialogue and questionnaire have been judged against the scoring matrix, presented at the February area committee, and as appropriate, fed in to the draft masterplan. The draft masterplan is being presented to the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee today, 14th April 2015.

5.3 Hermitage Park Draft Masterplan

- 5.3.1 The draft masterplan contains the most popular and most relevant elements from the three options that were presented to the public.
- 5.3.2 The list of project development areas for the park including restoration of heritage elements and upgrading the paths is set out at item 2.2.2.
- 5.3.3 In addition, the main changes to the current park layout and function as presented in the draft masterplan are as follows:
- Belvedere at outer wall of memorial gardens
 - Bedding area next to Hermit's Well to be redesigned as footprint of former Hermitage House
 - Play park to become kitchen garden (with play equipment resited)
 - Redesign of sports area to adventure play, crazy golf and fountain plaza/event space/informal play
 - New pavilion with covered deck area to incorporate café, toilets and community space for volunteers/other
 - Removal of Japanese style shelter
 - Introduction of seating both formal and informal
 - Introduction of sheltered areas
 - Additional car and cycle parking with provisional installation of electric charging station

5.4 Next Steps

- 5.4.3 There will be a public presentation of the draft masterplan on Wednesday 29th April 2015 in Victoria Hall and Colquhoun Square.
- 5.4.4 Following this, the associated documents required for the park such as a conservation plan, activity plan, management and maintenance plan and business and marketing plan can be fully developed for the final bid to HLF.
- 5.4.5 A report on options for delivery of associated car parking (outwith scope of HLF funding), and also management and maintenance resourcing, will be prepared for the May 2015 business day.
- 5.4.5 The draft final masterplan will be presented to the area committee on 9th June 2015 for approval.
- 5.4.6 The associated documents required for the stage two bid to HLF will be finalised and submitted for 31st August 2015 with notification of the outcome in late December 2015.
- 5.4.7 The Hermitage Park Project Development Officer post will end on 5th August 2015.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 Following continued extensive consultation with stakeholders and the general public, and utilising a weighted matrix system, the consultant has developed a draft masterplan for the park. This draft masterplan will be presented to the public on 29th April 2015. Work on the associated documentation can progress and a draft final masterplan developed for consideration of the area committee in June 2015. The project is on track for a 31st August submission to Heritage Lottery Fund.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1	Policy	None.
7.2	Financial	£20,000 has been allocated within the budget process for development in 2014/2015. A further £280,000 has been allocated for potentially 2015/16 onwards depending on HLF approval.
7.3	Legal	Bound by HLF terms of grant approved by Council 23 rd Jan 2014.
7.4	HR	New staff post funded by HLF ends 5 th August 2015.
7.5	Equalities	None but the proposed improvements increase accessibility of the Park to those with mobility problems and visitors with pushchairs.
7.6	Risk	Further match funding must be secured.
7.7	Customer Services	None.

8. APPENDICES

8.1	Appendix One	Hermitage Park Masterplan (to follow)
8.2	Appendix Two	Hermitage Park Questionnaire Results

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure

Policy Lead: Pippa Milne

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For further information contact:

Melissa Simpson, Hermitage Park Development Officer.

Tel: +44(0)1436 658989

melissa.simpson@argyll-bute.gov.uk