



MY NEIGHBOURHOOD



AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

Horfield and Lockleaze NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

25th June 2015

Report of: Sarah Tyler - Client and Operations Co-ordinator, Bristol Parks

Title: Stoke Park Endowment Fund

Contact Telephone Number: Bristol Parks 0117 922 3719

RECOMMENDATION

- To agree to accept the Stoke Park Endowment Fund of £30,000
- To agree the process for awarding funds from the Endowment Fund
- To discuss the project recommendations that have come forward for Endowment Funding.

Context

1.0 Stoke Park Estate is maintained by the Bristol Parks Service. The site currently has a site management plan that details the actions for the next 5 years; a Conservation Management Plan is being commissioned to provide a long term plan for the site. It is planned that the Conservation Plan will be complete by early 2016.

1.1 The management plan seeks to identify the current and conflicting demands of the site users and it proposes a sustainable management guide that will conserve, restore and enhance the historic and ecological importance of the site whilst improving public access and enjoyment.

1.2 In 1998 the Stoke Park Estate was acquired by a consortium of three house builders from the Frenchay Health Authority with the intention of developing the former hospital site including the Dower House for housing. The Consortium's Section 106 agreement with South Gloucestershire Council, the planning authority for the development, set out clear conditions for the historic parkland of the estate to:

- Protect it from development
- Ensure its proper future management

- Protect its historic heritage
- Ensure its continued historical restoration
- Set up a Parkland Committee of key stakeholders (the Consortium, South Glos, Bristol City Council and the Avon Gardens Trust) to oversee the parklands management and to agree a suitable custodian for its future protection.
- Transfer the freehold of the parkland from the Consortium to South Glos on the completion of the development with an endowment of funds to provide for its future management.

1.3 The completion of the Consortium's development saw a period of consultation on different options for the future protection and management of the estate. The Parkland committee and South Glos reached an agreement that Stoke Park Estate should be transferred to Bristol City Council, an authority experienced in managing and restoring large historic estates in the public domain.

1.4 Bristol City Council's Cabinet approved the proposal for Bristol City to acquire Stoke Park Estate at a cabinet meeting on the 2nd April 2009. Following a period of negotiation, legal due diligence searches and the reaching of an agreement on a financial dowry of £1.5 million to be provided by the Consortium all parties agreed to the process of transfer.

1.5 In January 2012 the ownership of Stoke Park Estate was transferred to Bristol City Council. The area transferred into BCC ownership is 108 hectares (267 acres), the majority of which forms a substantial part of the 18th Century Stoke Park Estate and includes an area of fields at the southwest end originally part of the historic Health House estate, now the Priory Hospital and includes a substantial length of the original 18th Century Heath House estate wall still standing in Sir John's Lane. However, it excludes the Dower House and the former hospital site.

1.6 Stoke Park Estate was transferred to Bristol City Council with endowment or dowry of £1.5 million provided by The Consortium. £1.2 million of this dowry will be invested by Bristol City Council to fund initial set up costs and to generate income for the site's long term management and continuing restoration. The remaining £300, 000 will be set aside to fund the stabilisation and restoration of the historic Heath House Estate wall in Sir John's Lane.

1.7 The endowment fund will be used for a mix of revenue and capital spend and match funding and is to last at least 15 to 20 years. It is anticipated that the estate's budget can be supplemented by DEFRA funding (administered by Natural England under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme) and Single Farm Payment funding.

1.8 Agreement has been authorised by Service Director, Tracey Morgan, for

the sum of £30,000 to be available for the Neighbourhood Partnership to hold for suitable grant applications to be funded.

2.0 Included in the site management plan are actions that are not delivered as part of the grounds maintenance specification that Bristol Parks provide.

2.1 The actions in the management plan will form the decision-making criteria.

Proposal

3.1 That the Neighbourhood Committee agree to accept £30,000 from the Stoke Park Endowment Fund as part of the NP Budget.

3.2 This fund will be ringfenced for activities in Stoke Park to address the following priorities (See 'Management Plan Actions' in appendices). Key priorities for 2015 are Events, Youth Engagement and Volunteering and Dog fouling/control.

3.3 In subsequent years projects must address recommendations coming out of the Conservation Management Plan, once approved by key stakeholders. The proposed process for the Endowment Fund is that projects will be either worked up by or submitted to the Stoke Park Delivery Group (SPDG).

Process

4.1 Projects will be submitted to SPDG on the Stoke Park Endowment Fund application form, (which is an amended version as the Well Being Small Grants form). Monitoring and evaluation of the work will also use similar paperwork to the Well Being Small Grants monitoring paperwork.

SPDG meetings will be scheduled approx. 4 weeks before the NP paper deadline dates.

3 Aug 2015 (ready for NP paper deadline on 28th Aug)

19 Oct 2015 (ready for NP paper deadline on 13th Nov)

18 Jan 2015 (ready for NP paper deadline on 12th Feb)

Recommendations for future development of the scheme

5.1 SPDG will make report to the Neighbourhood Partnership and recommend projects for funding.

SPDG is made up of BCC Parks Officers, BCC Heritage and Partnership Officer, Local ward Councillors, Chair of Lockleaze Voice.

Steve England is an advisory to the group but not a voting member so will not be involved in the recommendation process..

5.2 The NP Committee will make the final decision regarding funding or not funding projects.

6.0 Current Projects

6.1 SPDG are considering the following applications and will bring their recommendations to the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting for approval by the Neighbourhood Committee:

- £1000 to fund 2 Community Events linked to Environmental Action over the Summer months - Project delivery partner BCC
- £2000 to fund a programme of Walks and Talks over the Summer – Project delivery partner Steve England

Risk Assessment

No risks identified

Equality Implications

The application process has a section regarding equalities which all applicants will need to address and will be scored against. Applicants that do not show due regard to equalities will be requested to re submit their project to include this. Help will be offered by the NP team to help applicants to ensure that equalities are considered as part of all applications.

Legal

Awaiting feedback from Bristol City Council Legal Dept, but no issues anticipated.

Background Papers:

A Management Plan for Stoke Park Estate 2013 - 2018