

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER PLANNING****LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION  
PROJECTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on the Heritage and Conservation projects being delivered through the County Council's Local Improvement Schemes in 2012/13.

**Information and Advice**

2. Priority Two of the County Council's Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 is to promote the economic prosperity of Nottinghamshire and safeguard our environment and one of the key actions for delivery of this Priority is to "physically improve the local natural and historic environment through the delivery of the local improvement schemes programme".
3. Heritage and conservation schemes have been part of the overall Local Improvement Schemes programme since April 2005 (Year 2). They are delivered on behalf of the LIS programme by 3 F.T.E. temporary Community Conservation Project Officers in the Conservation Team, supported by the conservation and heritage specialists and working in partnership with local communities, volunteers, Parish Councils and organisations such as Groundwork. All of the Conservation and Heritage projects are instigated by local communities and groups and they are closely involved at all stages through to delivery. In 2011/12 almost 5000 hours of volunteer time were recorded. Some of the projects are also able to attract match funding from, for example, Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and landfill tax, bringing £350,000 of additional funding into the County last year.
4. The 2012/13 programme of Local Improvement Schemes was approved by Cabinet on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and includes 62 heritage and conservation projects from both urban and rural communities across the County, with total County Council funding of just under £900,000. A list of the schemes is included in Appendix 1.
5. Projects to improve the natural environment include:
  - Supporting volunteer groups to enhance biodiversity and reduce flood risk by removing invasive non-native species such as Himalayan Balsam along the Rivers Maun and Meden in both Ashfield and Mansfield.
  - Planting native tree species in Worksop, Mansfield, Norwell and Arnold.
  - Creating community gardens in Beeston and Beckingham.
  - Contributing to a larger project to restore water meadows in Cuckney.
  - Enhancing a network of ponds in Southwell.
  - Creating a community orchard in Ruddington.
6. Improvements to the County's historic environment include:

- Work to help restore listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments in Tuxford, Blidworth, Worksop and Newark.
  - The restoration or creation of seven war memorials.
  - Contributing to a much larger project to create a heritage centre in disused canal buildings at Beeston Lock, which will hopefully draw down over £0.5m of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
  - The restoration of other heritage assets such as pinfolds (Scarrington), bandstands (Langold), clocks (Misterton) and a Miners' Banner (Ollerton).
7. There are also a range of projects to improve both physical and intellectual access to the County's environment such as the creation of heritage trails (e.g. Kimberley and Shelford), provision of interpretation (North Muskham, Arnold and Selston), graveyard surveys and mapping (Coddington) and allotment projects in for example Sutton in Ashfield and Calverton. Schemes also include improvements to paths, the provision of picnic tables and seating, planting wildflowers and hedges and the creation of sculptures and outdoor classrooms.
8. In addition to the potential £0.5million of additional funding for Beeston Lock heritage centre, a further £86,000 of match funding for other projects has been identified so far.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. Not applicable.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. The County Council's Local Improvement Scheme has been very successful in helping to deliver the strategic objective to safeguard the County's environment. Local communities and groups are supported in restoring and enhancing their natural and historic environment, attracting significant amounts of investment into the Nottinghamshire and helping to make the County a more attractive place to live and work.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) To note the success of the County Council's Local Improvement Schemes programme in physically improving the local natural and historic environment and the current programme of Heritage and Conservation projects.

**Sally Gill**

## **Group Manager Planning**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager (0115 969 6508)**

## **Constitutional Comments**

12. This report is for noting only by the Culture Committee. No legal issues arise at present. (NAB 19.09.12)

## **Financial Comments (DJK 19.09.12)**

13. The contents of this report are duly noted; the Conservation Team will continue to support communities in applying for these grants within the confines of the L.I.S. budget and for match funding where applicable.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All

## APPENDIX 1 – LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS 2012/13

Location	Brief description of project
Ashfield, River Maun & River Meden	Eradication of Himalayan Balsam
Huthwaite, Nunn Brook Park	Shrub, hedgerows & tree planting, creation of picnic area
Sutton & Kirkby, River Maun	Biodiversity works at Maun grasslands
Stanton Hill - Rainbow Gardens Allotment	Creation of community allotment for children
Selston, Holly Hills Grasslands	Habitat enhancements, signage & interpretation
Teversal Visitor Centre, Phoenix greenway area	Picnic tables & benches
Silverhill Wood	Planting native tree species
Whaley Thorns Graveyard	Community open space, wildflower meadow, nesting boxes, seating
Elkesley Cemetery	Memorial tree seat
Markham Clinton	Memorial plaque to commemorate airmen who died in 1943
Tuxford Cemetery/Green Burial Ground	2 x Interpretation Boards
Marnham	Restoration of Listed church hall
Worksop Priory	Restoration of Listed Gate House, Shrine & Chapel
Worksop, Maple Drive (adjacent to Prospect Hill Junior School)	Woodland enhancements, footpaths, habitat creation and seating
Gateford	Tree planting to commemorate Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Beckingham, The Old Willow Works	Creation of community activities area/community garden
Mattersey	Children's village archaeology project
Misterton, Library Building (Listed)	Restoration of the Clock
Scrooby Croft	Green space enhancements and community sculpture
Langold Country Park	Restoration of bandstand
Retford, Conway Garden Sheltered Accommodation	Creation of garden area
Beeston, St John the Baptist Church	Contribution to wider project to create community gardens
Kimberley	Creation of a Kimberley History Trail with interpretation boards
Cossall	Refurbishment of 2 War Memorials
Beeston Lock	Phase II works to create heritage centre
Stapleford, Archers Field Recreation Ground	Creation of & improvements to existing footpaths, interpretation, seating & planting
Stapleford Children's Centre, Grenville Drive	Transform outdoor space into community garden
Brinsley Recreation Ground, Cordy Lane	Creation of Jubilee entrance arch
Newstead & Annesley Country Park	Creation of pathways, management plan, hedge planting and weed management
Woodborough	Outdoor classroom seat in Pinfold
Calverton, Collyer Road	Provision of accessible allotment for disabled users
Arnold, Arnot Hill Park	Interpretation panel, sculptures, benches, tree planting
Bestwood Country Park	Improved access and seating, restoration of wall
Mansfield, Bailey Crescent	Tree planting on the Green (20)
Mansfield, Goodhand Crescent	Tree planting on the Green (10)
Mansfield, Leas Avenue/Pye Avenue/Townroe Drive	Tree planting on the Green (10)
Pleasley, Little Lane footpath	Tree works and creation of nature walk
Mansfield Woodhouse – Church Street	Restoration and enhancement of historic garden

Community Gardens	
Mansfield Woodhouse, Yeoman Hill Park	Restoration of World War II memorial gates
Mansfield, Hermitage Lane (River Maun)	Eradication of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam
Cuckney, Norton & Goldsmeadow	Contribution to restoration of water meadows
Southwell, Brackenhurst Campus	Enhancements to network of ponds
Norwell	Tree planting around the "parish gardens" (allotments)
North Muskham, Ferry Inn	Interpretation
Ollerton, St Pauline's Church	Restoration of Miners banner
Blidworth Mill	Restoration of grade II listed building and increasing public access
Coddington All Saints	Graveyard survey & mapping
Balderton, Mount Road Cemetery	Replace/renew the walkways in Garden of Remembrance
Newark Castle	Restoration of scheduled ancient monument
Newark, Barnby Road Allotments	Install security fencing
Scarrington Pinfold	Restoration of pinfold
Keyworth	Restoration of Memorial gates
Cropwell Butler, Sheldon Field Recreation Ground	Provision of a lectern type information board at the main entrance
Kinoulton	Creation of outdoor environmental classroom
Ruddington, Church Street	Restoration of War Memorial, interpretation, pathways & seating
Bunny Village Hall, Church Street	Excavation of existing circular planting area in front of the hall and replanting
Bunny Village Green	2 x seats and tree planting
Ruddington, Hareham Allotment Gardens	Creation of community orchard & removal/ replacement of asbestos cement shed
West Bridgford Park	Creation of tree trail and interpretation
Shelford, Main Road	Refurbishment of War Memorial
Shelford & Newton	Creation of a history trail covering 12 sites
East Leake, Sheepwash Brook	Secure Embankment, culverts and habitats