

Council Question 4: Appendix A - Forty Hall Park HLF Park for People Project

Briefing Note June 2012

Background

In 2008, LBE applied to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for funding to carry out the "Forty Hall & Estate" project. The Hall was successful (Forty Hall Development Project), however the Park was not and a revised bid was submitted under a separate HLF funding stream "Parks for People" in August 2011. The overall budget for the Forty Hall Park for People Project is £2million, with an LBE contribution of £200,000.

Forty Hall Park for People Project - Scope

The project's scope has been reduced from the original parkland content of 2008 Forty Hall & Estate project to ensure that LBE's contribution does not exceed £200,000.

The current project will restore 18th century landscape features surrounding the Hall; improve access & educational information throughout the parkland; as well as provide an additional post (Learning & Conservation Officer) within the Parks team to deliver a 5 year activity programme to increase community engagement & learning.

The capital scope of the project is outlined in the Forty Hall Park Master plan which also outlines which items are not part of the Park project. A summary of the areas which will be re-landscaped are as follows:

- Restore **Turkey Brook Bridge & weir** (linking parkland to public footpath leading to Capel Manor, Myddelton House & Gardens, THFC training ground etc)
- Restore **Ferme Ornée** to original 18th century ornamental farm layout and conserve summer house foundations etc
- Restore 18th century design of **pond, mound and approach drive** in front of the Hall (including de-silt of pond, replaced edging, replace existing furniture in keeping with historic landscape, remove/reduce height of hedge row to restore historic views of Lime Avenue, resurface approach drive)
- Reveal 18th century designs of **Pleasure Gardens**, restore stream & reform shape of ephemeral pool, introduce seating, signage, interpretation information and planting, remove memorial trees
- Restore **Warrener's Cottage** for education use
- Repair **Walled Garden**, improve access, seating & interpretive information, introduce new planting to demonstrate fruit & vegetable growing
- Improve **Café Courtyard** – access, planting & paving, reduce public car parking (retaining disabled parking)
- Reconfigure existing **public car park** with **new entrance** and pedestrian & cycle access only via gate pillars, new bin storage, improve access, signage & planting
- New **play area & path** in woods
- Introduce educational & informative **signage** throughout park

- Restore **Victorian barns** at Capel Manor (to be brought back into full use by Capel Manor)

The project bid was submitted to HLF in August 2011 and funding was approved in December 2011. HLF subsequently gave LBE permission to start the project on 12th April 2012.

Car Park New Entrance/Gate Pillars

There are currently 2 options regarding improved entrances into Forty Hall Park which are currently being pursued.

As part of the August 2011 submission, it was proposed that a new, wider entrance be created into the car park for all vehicular traffic and that the gate pillar entrance became pedestrian & cycle access only. This would ensure that larger vehicles such as coaches & buses could now access the site and also protect the Grade II listed gate pillars which are damaged on a frequent basis by vehicles using the entrance. Widening the gate pillars to create a larger existing entrance was also explored as an option, however English Heritage indicated that they would not support this and that the new entrance to the car park was preferable. Since the planning permission was submitted for the new entrance, the application has been halted as Planning require further information regarding the other entrance options considered as well as reducing the entrance width. Parks Team are currently redeveloping the application to meet these requirements and will be re-submitting shortly.

Parallel to this, English Heritage CEO, Simon Thurley met with Rob Leak at Forty Hall where it was mentioned that English Heritage would revisit their statement of August 2011 regarding the widening of the gate pillars. A sketch of the proposed work was subsequently submitted to English Heritage who indicated that they would not rule out widening the gates, but that LBE must submit a full case to English Heritage before they will give a confirmed response.

Two courses of action are therefore currently being pursued regarding the entrance to the park and at this stage we are unable to confirm which option will be implemented. Widening the gate pillars rather than creating a new entrance to the car park would be a change of scope for the project and LBE would need to seek HLF approval to carry this out.

Next Steps

- Prepare landscape tender documentation (currently ongoing)
- Tender for landscape contract (scheduled for Summer 2012) & contractor appointment
- Conduct archaeological work pre-landscape contractor start on site
- Conduct wildlife surveys pre-landscape contractor start on site
- Contractor mobilisation on site (scheduled Winter 2012)
- Completion of landscape capital works on site (scheduled to finish Autumn/Winter 2013)
- Recruit & appoint of Learning & Conservation Officer (currently ongoing) and commence 3 year volunteer programme

Further information

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