Houghton Hall Park
Renaissance & Renewal Project

Project area

- 17 hectares
- HRTC and CBC owned land
- includes the Green
What is the purpose of the project?

- **Recognise** the importance of the Park
- **Celebrate** the role it has played over generations
- **Improve** the Park for people’s enjoyment

Key Drivers

- User Surveys (2010)
- Community Surveys (2012)
- Site Management Plan
- Low use by the local community
- Degradation of heritage features
- Growth north of Houghton Regis – need to ‘safe-guard’ and ‘future-proof’
- Potential to generate both social, economic and health benefits
Key Drivers

HLF Parks for People

- Funds projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK
- Projects need to contribute to outcomes for:
  - Heritage
  - People
  - Communities
- R1 development grants allow professional approach to scoping
- Grants from £100,000 to £5 million
- ‘Pass’ to apply for R2 grant

LOTTERY FUNDED
Project Status

- Awarded Development Grant of £215,100 – 28 June 2013
- Permission to Start received – 5 September 2013
- PM started - 5 November 2013
- Consultants appointed / Inception meetings – November 2013

Development Stage Milestones

- Nov 2013 – March 2014 – Surveys/ needs assessment/ evidence gathering
- March 2014 – Initial Consultant reports/ findings
- April 2014 - Stage C (Mid Project) Review with HLF
- June 2014 – Final Consultant reports received
- 28 August 2014 – R2 bid submitted
- 28 November - bid result
And then what?

- HLF Round 2: Delivery
  - c. £2m delivery grant for:
    - Project Staff
    - Heritage Restoration Work
    - Infrastructure
    - Interpretation and Learning
    - Volunteer Development
    - New Build
  - Jan 2015- Jan 2018

Detail of Current Proposals

Caveat – consultants work and public consultation may change project proposals
Project plan

Proposals: Heritage

- Heritage
- Formal Garden
- Kitchen Garden
- Ice hole
- Kennel / the Hunt
- Walks & Parades
- Sightlines & views
- Research projects
- Support for Heritage Society
Proposals: Capital

- **Facilities**
  - Café/ toilets
  - Community retail space
  - Flexible heritage and community activity/ meeting space
  - External ‘amphitheatre’ for events
  - Park seating
  - Extended car park
  - Improved signage
  - Interpretation
  - Trim trail/ play/ USP

- **Landscape**
  - Balancing heritage and community use
  - Accessible paths
  - Tree surveys/ tree planting/ clearance
  - New formal gateways/ semi formal entrances
  - Historic landscape and archaeology surveys
  - Conservation Management Plan
  - 10 year Management & Maintenance Plan

Proposals: People

- **Learning:**
  - Tree canopy
  - Activity Officer & Activity Programme
  - Oral history / Living History
  - Masterclasses/ workshops from Contractors
  - Links with Colleges/ apprenticeships
  - Kitchen Garden – community use

- **Volunteering:**
  - Colleges – students volunteering in garden
  - Retail opportunities for local crafts people
  - Volunteer training and development
  - Additional volunteer roles – conservation/ horticulture/ heritage/ activities
  - Young volunteers/ Rangers scheme
Outline Plan for Heritage Hub

- Interactive learning zone for children
- Temporary & permanent heritage displays
- Home for local primary materials
- Extensive interpretation
- Research equipment
- Heritage Day
- Base for heritage and community events
- Base for Park activity programme

Contact us…

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