

25th July 2006

Report of the Head of Strategy and Regeneration

Sedgefield Borough Local Area Improvement Programme

Application Report – Great Aycliffe Way Extension & Nature Park

Introduction

This report highlights a Local Improvement Programme (LIP) application submitted to and appraised by the Strategy and Regeneration Section. The report provides information to the Area 5 Forum for their consideration and comments, which will be used to formulate a report and recommendation to the Sedgefield Borough Council Cabinet.

The Area 5 Forum has been allocated £1,140,000 of LIP capital resources between 2006 and 2009, none of which has been allocated to date. A total of £380,000 has been allocated to the year 2006/07.

Project Background

- **Name of Project:** Great Aycliffe Way Extension and Nature Park
- **Name of Applicant:** Great Aycliffe Town Council.
- **Legal Status:** Town Council
- **Date of Application:** 3rd July 2006
- **Landlord:** Great Aycliffe Town Council / Sedgefield Borough Council
- **Brief Description of Project:** The project aims to extend the existing Great Aycliffe Way to the east of the town. The new link will start at the rear of Woodham Community College, continue through woodland plantations and open spaces and link to the Aycliffe Nature Park continuing along the disused Simpasture Railway line and meet the original path adjacent to Westmorland Way. An area of unused industrial land that has been converted into a Nature Park will be further improved and made more accessible to all members of the community.
- **Requested from LIP:** £204,505 (100%)
- **Total Project Cost:** £204,505 (Capital)
- **What will the LIP be used for:** A breakdown of the costs is below:

Arts Features and Street Furniture	£20,000
Nature Park incl footpath surfacing, gates, fencing, interpretation, bins, and benches	35,485
Footpath works	£133,000
Fees and Contingencies	£16,020
Total	£204,505

LIP Criteria

- **ODPM Definition:** **Yes**

The land is under used at the moment- this project will bring the area back into effective use as well as making it accessible to all.

- **Community Strategy Objectives:**

The project will contribute towards two of the aims of the community strategy – An Attractive Borough and A Healthy Borough. The project will improve the provision and maintenance of open spaces around the route of the extension to the walk and value, conserve and enhance biological diversity at the Nature Park site. The project will also provide the facilities to encourage the residents of Newton Aycliffe and further afield to become more active.

- **Evidence of need and community support:**

Consultations during the Parish Plan production earlier this year highlighted the need for an extension to the Great Aycliffe Way. The community stated that they would like a new walk to be made around Aycliffe, highlighting the success of the original Great Aycliffe Way. Consultation on this project has also been carried out with the friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve, The Nature Park Association and the Newton Aycliffe Walking the Way to Health Group, who were all supportive of the project.

- **Value for money and Revenue implications:**

The project has requested the full project cost from LIP and no additional match funding has been secured from other sources towards the project costs. The Town Council will however be covering the additional revenue costs arising out of the proposal which total £35,000 over the next 8 years. Officers from the Strategy & Regeneration Division will work with the applicant to try and investigate other appropriate sources of match funding that may be available before the project is taken to the Borough Council's Cabinet.

- **Legal Issues:** **All satisfactory**

- **Statutory Approvals:**

Sedgefield Borough Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council own the land. Discussions are underway to confirm if any additional approvals are required.

Recommendation from the Strategy and Regeneration Section:

That the Area Forum considers the following key issues:

- The relative priority of this project within the Newton Aycliffe / Area 5 locality.
- The level of funding requested for the capital works. The requested amount is 54% of the total Newton Aycliffe allocation for this financial year 2006/07
- That although the Town Council has made a revenue commitment to the project at this stage, no additional 'match funding' has been identified towards the capital costs.

Subject to being happy with the above points that the Area Forum supports the progress of this application.

Material considerations:

Other applications received from Area 5:

In taking the above decision the Area Forum is requested to consider the implication of the funding level requested against the following projects that have been received for future determination by the Forum.

- Aycliffe Village Environmental Improvements- Great Aycliffe Town Council- LIP amount £105,000, Total project cost £157,400
- Greenfield School Community and Arts College- Changing accommodation and admin area- LIP amount £60,000, Total project £126,781.

The following projects are currently under development at the moment, although no application has been received to date. Once applications are received these projects will be brought forward to the Forum for debate.

- Woodham Community Centre – refurbishment of the Community Centre to enable additional activities to be provided- No costs as yet

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