

Trust and Charities Committee – Highfields Leisure Trust Update

The Highfields Leisure Trust covers land within the main Parkland adjacent to the University Campus and also the Sports Fields located immediately to the south of University Boulevard. See attached plan 1.

Highfields Park received a Stage Two Heritage and Big Lottery Award (HBLF) in March 2015. The total cost of the project is £4.5million made up as follows:-

- HBLF
- Highfields Leisure Trust Dowry Contribution
- WREN
- Nottingham City Council Parks
- University of Nottingham
- Probation Services.

The agreed project purposes include:-

- The de-silting of the Lake
- Footpath Improvements
- Restoration of the Ticket office
- Restoration of Bridges and Balustrades
- Restoration of the Boat House
- Restoration the Croquet and Bowls Pavilions
- Restoration of gates and railings
- Replacement of Lighting Columns to the Tram stop entrance
- Tree removals and Tree works
- Rhododendron and Azalea works
- Conversion of redundant Bowling greens to Croquet Lawns
- Creation of a new adventure Golf facility
- Improved events and activities
- New Park Ranger
- New Head Gardener

Conditions of the HBLF Grant

- Formal Partnership with the University of Nottingham
- To apply for, secure and sustain the Green Flag Award
- To establish a social enterprise for the parks

Project Update

Since the approval the project group have been working up the detailed design and confirming cost certainty for all the works packages.

It has become very clear that since the application date back in 2014 the construction industry has fully recovered from the recession and as a result the

entire industry has seen significant price increases. This has mainly affected the rates of construction and increases in preliminary costs

In addition to this the final detailed analysis of the silt and market testing of the de silting methodology has again identified price increases.

As a result these items have delayed our original work programme and it has taken a long time to both re focus evaluate and re scope the project in order to bring the project back in budget.

Options have now ben identified and we are awaiting final approval from the HBLF before moving the project to Full Financial close later in December. In Mobilisation will start in January after the Christmas break and full construction will start in February. The majority of works will be completed within 1 year.

Ground Maintenance and Site Management

As part of the grant conditions the park needs to be maintained in line with Green flag Award standards. A full copy of the Green Flag Maintenance and Management plan is attached. The MMP provides full details of al the sites maintenance and management operations.

This year the park has continued to develop the parks events an activity programme which has included:

- Highfields User Group meetings
- Liaison with Friends of University Park
- Highfields Park restoration rambles.
- Highfields Park memories events and research.
- Hands-on conservation work with volunteers including the UoN Conservation Society and corporate volunteers such as e-on.
- Working with Lakeside on partnership events such as Wheel!, Diwali and Chinese New Year.
- Developing an Aestheti/Art code app for the park.
- Young Ranger days.

Another significant project this year was the installation of a pair of stone lion statues into the park, overlooking the lake. The lions were a gift from Ningbo, China to celebrate 10 years of partnership from 2005-2015.