

CASTLE GREEN REGENERATION PROJECT

Report By: PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE MANAGER

Wards Affected

1. Hereford City

Purpose

2. To advise Members of the current position in respect of the Castle Green Regeneration Project.

Background

Reasons

3. To update Members on the current situation relating to initiatives to regenerate the Castle Green area in the light of the decision to not proceed with a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for park restoration.

Considerations

- a) Members have recently considered a report on the development of a Heritage Lottery bid for the refurbishment of Castle Green. In the light of a number of factors including the impact on other Heritage Lottery bids in the City and the constraints on the Council's Capital Programme it was agreed not to proceed with a Heritage Lottery bid for Castle Green at this stage.
- b) Some funding had been set aside in the Economic Development budget to support feasibility work for the project planning phase of the Heritage Lottery bid. The decision not to proceed with the bid has left approximately £30,000 of funding unallocated from the 2004/05 financial year. The Parks and Countryside Manager has advised that it would be possible to utilise this funding to implement a number of minor improvements which would give the Castle Green an immediate face lift.
- c) The local Member Councillor Fleet has been briefed on the decision not to proceed with the Heritage Lottery bid and there have been requests for an update on the position from Hereford City Council, the Friends of Castle Green and from a local newsletter (Jabba) which circulates around the Bartonsham/St James' area of the City. The Parks and Countryside Manager has drafted the attached communication (Appendix 1 to the report) setting out the current position and confirming the Council's continuing commitment to Castle Green.
- d) In order to demonstrate the Council's continuing commitment to Castle Green and to maintain this important public space over the short term it has been agreed that the £30,000 of funding which was proposed for feasibility work is redirected towards minor improvements on the Castle Green. To take this

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tony Featherstone, Parks & Countryside Manager on (01568) 798321

forward it is proposed that the Parks and Countryside Manager consult with the Friends of the Castle Green on their key priorities for improvement.

Risk Management

4. To address this issue it is proposed that the Friends of the Castle Green are asked to work with the Council to identify priorities for improvement.

Consultees

5. Local Member, Hereford City Council and the Friends of Castle Green

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Member report 11th March 2005 (Community Development)
- Cabinet Members report 25th April, 2005 (Economy Liaison Group)