

11. Bruton Dovecote (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To seek support from Area East for the Dovecote scheme and seek Members endorsement for the submission of a capital bid to the District Executive for funding to progress the improvement scheme.

Recommendations

- (1) That Members fully support the Bruton Dovecote Scheme – the key elements of which are set out in the report.
- (2) That Members endorse a Capital Bid to the District Executive for £50,000 towards the implementation of the Dovecote Scheme.

Background

Bruton is an historic and highly attractive town so all new development will need to respect these facts. Bruton Dovecote is an iconic symbol of the town and provides a vantage point and social area, with an ecological site nearby which gives a contrast from a different environment. The partners have worked on this significant monument, originally a watchtower above the Abbey and Town, for some time. The aim is to improve a key tourist attraction, provide car parking and educational facilities and develop social open space uses for the site by the town. Once improvement works are completed SSDC officers will work with the Community Development Officer and community to carry out a promotional campaign to host events and activities.

Project Objectives

Key elements

1. Repointing and refurbishing of the Dovecote
2. Installation of iron viewing gate to entrance
3. Provision of off road grasscrete car parking near playing field to southwest
4. Interpretation board provision on approach from Station Road and in or near to proposed car parking area – flag up facilities available in Pavilion
5. Bollard protection from car parking to lower playing pitches
6. Investigate potential for easing access to structure
7. Provision of picnic benches to right of Gateway
8. Investigate feasibility of lighting – scheduled monument consents

No physical assets will be owned by SSDC.

Project links with the Corporate plan and Area East service plan:

Project fulfils one or more of SSDC Corporate Objectives:

Increase economic vitality & prosperity:

- We are working in partnership with the public and private sectors in developing and delivery of the Market Towns Vision of which this regeneration activity is part.

Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities:

- We aim to reduce misuse of the site for drug taking and maintain above 80% the people satisfied with their neighbourhoods as a place to live.

Promote a balanced natural and built environment:

- At present the area is becoming run-down and we aim for 80% of residents and businesses satisfied with the quality of the natural & built environment by 2012.

Meeting Critical Activity:

Neighbourhood consultation determined areas of satisfaction and dissatisfaction and set targets accordingly via Bruton The Way Forward community plan. Consultation and target setting were carried out in 2006/07.

Area Development Plan 06-07:

Section 2; Market Town Regeneration

2.1 Support market town regeneration through a range of projects addressing identified local needs generated from community led action plans

Financial Implications

None at present for Area East Committee but Members are asked to endorse a bid for £50,000 from the Corporate Capital Programme.

The total cost of the scheme has been estimated at £105,000.

A £50,000 capital expenditure from the District Capital Programme would leverage in a further £55,000 plus from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (£40k) and the National Trust (15k). Bruton Town Council have agreed a £3,000 contribution.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

As noted above.

Other Implications

This is part of a long-term regeneration initiative. Bruton is an historic town with eco-tourism and historic tourism potential, which is planned for substantial gradual regeneration but must initially focus on day visitors due to a severe shortage of quality accommodation. Within a few miles are Stourhead, Alfred's Tower, Cadbury Castle and the site of a Roman Temple. Within circa. 20 miles are Bath, Wells, Stonehenge and Maiden Castle.

Background Papers: *Project Plan/Capital bid to SSDC District*
