

Appendix Two – Regeneration of John Whitehead Park

1. For almost a year the Supporters of John Whitehead Park (SoJWP) have been working with Council officers to formulate an exciting regeneration Masterplan for the development of the park, which has so far been informed by public consultation undertaken by SoJWP.
2. The Masterplan will shortly be the subject of an agreed second phase of consultation with leaflets distributed, website articles, exhibitions with drop in sessions etc. The aim of this consultation is to inform and involve the users, community groups and local residents in the regeneration plans.
3. Major elements of the scheme proposals include:
 - i. A new play area that will provide challenging and inventive facilities for a large number of people from a wide range of ages and abilities
 - ii. A sensory garden area, with emphasis on features for the visually impaired
 - iii. A Multi-Use Games Area
 - iv. Wheeled sports facilities, such as a skate/BMX track
 - v. Improved landscaping and visual amenity
 - vi. Shrub removal to improve safety and well-being
4. A Project Steering Group has been established to direct the John Whitehead Park Project. The reasons for establishing this group are listed below:
 - i. Government guidelines on successful project management recommend that the project should be led by the local authority and involve a cross section of community members, representing a range of particular groups, from the design stage through to post completion maintenance and care. John Whitehead Park serves a wide community with a number of contributing organisations, all of who are stakeholders in the project and all of who have a voice in the future shaping of the park
 - ii. In order to satisfy the criteria of the £175,000 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener' funding for the park, Stockton Council has to be transparent in its efforts to ensure that the developments undertaken with the funding service the requirements of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) areas
 - iii. A project steering group will provide a forum for all relevant and appropriate service providers to contribute to the effective coherent development of the park
 - iv. Other development projects similar to that at John Whitehead Park have been successfully implemented on the same basis e.g. Ropner Park Development
5. The SoJWP Group has committed their support to the steering group and is keen to build on the work already undertaken to date.
6. In spring 2006 an application made to the 'Cleaner Safer Greener Element' of the Safer, Stronger Communities fund to carry out improvement works to the park successfully achieved a grant allocation of £175,000 over two years (£15,000 in 2006/07 and £160,000 in 2007/08). Whilst the Council are responsible for the overseeing of this budget and the contractual side of the project, the scheme will

be developed with the full involvement of the SoJWP and the input of Billingham residents, including the communities of Low Grange and Cowpen & Clarences (Neighbourhood Renewal Areas), under the direction of the Steering Group.

7. The 2006/07 Cleaner Safer Greener Element of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund allocation is to be invested in a CCTV camera that will help to secure and protect all future developments and investments made in the park.
8. The SoJWP are currently applying to BBC's Breathing Spaces, a part of the big lottery fund, for £10,000 to introduce bespoke seating into the park.
9. Following planning consent for housing on the old Billingham College site, The Causeway, Billingham; a Section 106 financial contribution from the housing developer for open / green space provision and development within John Whitehead Park is being negotiated.
10. Additional funding opportunities will be sought by officers from the council working in partnership with the SoJWP Group. Potential sources for funding are constantly changing; at the moment options include:
 - i. An element of SBC's Play England BIG Lottery allocation of £488,000
 - ii. Landfill Tax Grants
 - iii. Maximising potential of capital through urban regeneration programmes
 - iv. SBC Capital Resources
11. 2007 will mark 50 years since the original opening of the park. These developments will help to make this anniversary another year to remember in the parks notable contribution to the life and times of the Town Centre and the people who live and work in Billingham.
12. Graham Clingan has been appointed as the new Parks and Countryside Manager, in place of Martin Jenkins who left the Council to take up a new post this summer.