

Appendix A

Trinity Green Church

Banner Application (09/0878/ADV)

As part of the successful application by Stockton Borough Council to carry out stabilisation works to Holy Trinity Church, the Neighbourhood Management team became involved in the project to encourage the local residents to become more actively involved in the regeneration of the Trinity Green area.

As a consequence the Friends of Parkfield and Mill Lane secured funding of £10,000 from Banks and £10,000 from Impetus to transform the land surrounding Trinity Green to a vibrant green space incorporating seating, gardens and walkway, as the land is currently under utilised and a focus for Anti Social Behaviour, particularly the drinking of alcohol. The key aims are to transform Trinity Green to a place where children and families can enjoy the outdoors, preserving part of our heritage for future generations, promoting community cohesion and making improvements to the local environment.

On the 4th April 2008 the Friends of Parkfield and Mill Lane residents met at Arc to discuss ideas of what they would like to see on Trinity Green. This meeting was promoted to all of the residents within the NM area.

As a consequence of this meeting a list of what the residents would like to see was drawn up, which included:

- Installation of new seating and bins – achieved summer 2008.
- Christmas Lights – installed December 2008.
- Increased usage of church and surrounding area – Christmas Carol Service December 2008.
- Repairs to railings at top of Lightfoot Grove, Trinity Street and Westcott Street – achieved February 2009, labour from Kirklevington prison.
- Planting of wild flowers – Spring 2009, by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.
- Installation of an “information mechanisms” for Trinity Church – in progress.

The residents discussed the need for an information board/plaques in order to provide both local residents and visitors background to the church and the local area. It was from this discussion that the idea of banners in the form of a timeline was identified. The principal behind the idea of banners is that they would be:

- Highly visual - encouraging people to visit Trinity Green
- Informative – giving brief information on the church and Stockton
- Link Trinity Green to the Town Centre
- Identify the area as a place of special interest
- At a height and highly durable they are less likely to be subject to damage

As a follow on from this meeting a group of residents began meeting on a weekly basis in November 2008, at Stockton library, to begin research on both the church and the history of Stockton.

From these sessions it was agreed that the information would be best split into two areas – an interpretation feature situated at the Northwest side of the church, and a time line on banners that would illustrate facts about the local area and famous residents of Stockton.

The time line, which will be on a maximum of 12 banners in total, will identify important events, buildings and people from Stockton. The group also discussed the time span, for example would it only cover events etc from the date that the church was built or would it pre-date the building of the church. In applying the funding criteria to this resident led project in order to maximise input and provide value for money on output, its development needs to be via three milestone stages:

- Initial information / data gathering to inform broad concept
- Secure planning permission
- Develop the detail and installation

as:

- The funding bodies will only pay on completion of projects. Artist fees etc cannot be claimed if planning approval was refused.
- It would be discouraging for the residents and children to put in a lot of work and energy not to see a finished project.

As part of the whole interpretation element of the project, work has also been taking place with three of the local primary schools to encourage increased usage of Trinity Green by the schools as part of the curriculum. The primary schools will also work with the artist on the banner designs, although at this point no decision has been made as to who will be designing which area of history. However, it will be the artists role to ensure that the banners follow a key theme of colours, layout etc. The schools are also working together to produce a Key Stage 2 workbook focusing on Trinity Green and Holy trinity Church.

The key aim of this work is to encourage people to visit Trinity Green, not just pass through, to see it as a positive feature of the local community as well as Stockton as a whole.