

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No. 11

meeting date: 12 JANUARY 2016  
title: TOWNELEY GARDENS PROJECT PROPOSAL  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek permission for a redevelopment project based on borough council –owned land at Towneley Gardens in Longridge.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – to support the community in enhancing the built environment in Longridge
- Corporate Priorities - to encourage economic development throughout the borough, with specific focus on tourism

## 2 PROJECT PROPOSAL

A request has been received from Longridge Community Partnership for the Council's agreement to the submission of a funding bid for a redevelopment scheme for Towneley Gardens.

The partnership is aware that Tesco's local community grants scheme is available for funded projects across Greater Manchester, Pennine Lancashire, and High Peak districts.

An expression of interest has been submitted, and the partnership has until 11 January 2016 to complete the full application.

Although the Tesco scheme has driven progress on the bid so far, the partnership recognises that the bid may be unsuccessful, so other potential funding opportunities have been identified.

In completing the formal application, the partnership is obliged to provide evidence that the landowner is in agreement with the project, or the bid will be considered ineligible.

Attached at Appendix A is the project proposal, prepared by Angela Harrison for the partnership. As well as explaining what the project entails and the expected benefits, the document includes a brief resumé of the development and the work of the Longridge Community Partnership.

## 3 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- **Resources** – The Council is not asked to underwrite or to resource the proposed scheme. Depending on the extent of the redevelopment, there could be some effect on maintenance regimes, but those are not anticipated to be substantial.
- **Technical, Environmental, and Legal** – No risks have been identified
- **Political** – No risks have been identified. The project appears to have the support of Longridge Town Council, so a positive decision should enhance the relationship between authorities.
- **Reputation** – No significant risks have been identified. There is some risk that a view could emerge that the Council should be the body leading the redevelopment but, given the Council's dearth of capital resources, and the anticipated reduction in revenue funding next year, such criticism can be answered reasonably.

## 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Approves in principle the Towneley Gardens and Bowling Green development.

JOHN C HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Project proposal – Towneley Gardens and Bowling Green Area Development:  
- attached as Appendix A to this report.

For further information, please ask for John Heap 01200 414461

Community Services/ 12.1.16/JCH/IW

Longridge Community Partnership

## Project Proposal

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# TOWNLEY GARDENS AND BOWLING GREEN AREA DEVELOPMENT

Longridge – An Active Community

Version 0.0: 06/12/2015

Presented by: Angela Harrison

Date: 06/12/2015

Longridge - Townley gardens and bowling green development

**Our Committee information**

<b>Name</b>	Longridge Community Partnership
<b>Governed by</b>	Longridge Town Council - PR3 3HJ
<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Sarah Rainford
<b>Proposal author</b>	Mrs Angela Harrison - Longridge Community Partnership
<b>Title</b>	Volunteer-
<b>Phone number</b>	01772 923986
<b>Mobile number</b>	07849300803
<b>E-mail address</b>	info@longridgegym.com

<b>Longridge Community Partnership</b>	
<b>Background information-</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longridge Community Partnership was developed by a like minded group of individuals and comprises of a group of local business people and service providers that are pro-active and passionate about improving the lives, services and business provision for the people of the community and outlining towns and villages</li> <li>• Cllr Sarah Rainford- Longridge Town Mayor held the first meeting of the Longridge Community Partnership in July 2015 with a view to engaging with partners to develop a range of events and activities that would result in community cohesion and the identification of a range of community projects aimed to improve the life of members of the community.</li> <li>• Longridge Community Partnership successfully facilitated the Longridge Tour of Britain events,</li> </ul>	

Longridge does Halloween and the Longridge late night shopping evening

- This proposal aims to highlight the identified need to improve the Townley Gardens Area and possibly incorporating the bowling green. By re-developing the Townley gardens the following outcomes and improvements would be created for the community
- Economic improvements to the Town
- Positive impact on physical and mental health
- Benefits for children and young people
- Benefits for older people
- Contribution towards reducing crime and antisocial behaviour
- Role in encouraging cultural, social and community cohesion
- Significant environmental and biodiversity benefits
- Improvements in sustainable transport
- Volunteer opportunities

### Outline of the proposed project

The proposed project - redevelopment of the Townley gardens. The project aims to provide and regenerate the centrally located community open gardens, bowling green, and outdoor space. The project will be inclusive and available to all.

The proposed project has a three identified stages

The first stage – the identified priority is to replace the historical ironwork that was removed prior to the second world war, provide a measured mile to encourage walking on pedestrian only safe level ground, replace seating and provide family tables, provide children's seating and provide historical information and signpost the old station heritage centre

The second Stage - With ongoing funding and support the project will be able to regenerate the band stand area and provide a sheltered band stand area to enable outdoor activities such as tai-chi, concerts from the local band, art and performance art activities. A sheltered area could be accessed by many of the community residents, schools, nurseries, service providers and provide volunteer opportunities.

The third stage – With ongoing funding and support improvement can be made to the environment and Biodiversity of the area. Improved biodiversity is an essential component of the project and additional funding can expand the variety of species of plant and tree life and the addition of a bee apiary as a community project and to help the sustainability of the environment. Geocaches can also be developed to encourage families to be more active and learn about the local environment

The proposed project will have the following outcomes

- Economic improvements to the Town – would include an increased number of visitors to the Town. Local members of the community having improved access to the high street and local businesses using sustainable transport. To highlight the new tourist attraction we can build stronger links with the Ribble Valley tourism forum and local caravan parks that will in turn attract new visitors to the Town and local businesses
- Positive impact on physical and mental health – the proposed project has a number of health and wellbeing improvements including – the measured mile to encourage walking and with that the many measurable health benefits, providing direct contact with nature and a cleaner environment, opportunities for physical activity and social interaction
- Benefits for children and young people – the seating and table will encourage families and young people to enjoy nature and the clean environment. The Geocaches treasure hunts can also be developed to encourage families to be more active and spend quality time together
- Benefits for older people – the proposed project is on the doorstep of two areas of sheltered accommodation and close to a number of older people's residents. Older people will have access to a the beautiful gardens, safe and level walking paths, mature trees, music and art events and the opportunity to socialise and take part in volunteer projects
- Contribution towards reducing crime and antisocial behaviour – the community will have a sense of pride and engage with schools, young people services and extended schools – Duke of Edinburgh scheme to encourage environmental volunteer programs for young people
- Role in encouraging cultural, social and community cohesion – the whole community can be involved in the project and the every member of the community could benefit from the project
- Significant environmental and biodiversity benefits – The improved plant life will in turn attract new wildlife and bird species
- Volunteer opportunities – We would engage with a number of community groups and service providers to encourage new volunteer opportunities. These may be in the form of a gardening club, a young people geocache development group, a bee keepers group

The proposed project is also decorative, appealing attractive, functional, educational, and historical, it encourages sustainable transport and a healthy lifestyle, provide opportunities for volunteers, engages with other community groups, service providers, businesses and is free and accessible all year.

The proposed project will be a central point for the whole community and is on the doorstep of many vulnerable older members of the community. The partially walled garden and bowling green is located in the heart of the town, with one side having direct access to the main high street, one side access to the historical station buildings and Longridge heritage centre and station cafe and the remaining side overlooked by sheltered accommodation, there is also direct access to the playing fields and children's play area.

Currently the gardens are used primarily as throughway and not used to the full potential as a beautiful community historical open space with - gardens, rest area and bandstand,

### **How the proposed project will be funded**

We have identified that the TESCO local community grants is currently looking for expressions of interest for funded projects across Greater Manchester, Pennine Lancashire and High Peak districts.

The first step of the application is the expression of interest; the closing date for the expression is the 11<sup>th</sup> December with successful applicants asked to complete the full application form by the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016. As part of the expression of interest it is required that the Landowner is informed about the proposed project and is in support of the project in principle. Full planning permission conformation is not required at this time. A letter of support from the landowner at the expression of interest stage would be very beneficial to the success of the project at that stage

Local environmental charity Groundwork facilitating the funding in behalf of TESCO. Grants of £8, 000, £10, 000, £12,000 are available to improve local green spaces. The TESCO judging panel – each, will select three projects would be success in gaining either £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000 with the division of the funds decided by the local TESCO shoppers.

Should the proposed project be unsuccessful with the TESCO local community grant then other funding opportunities have also been identified, The proposed project identified outcomes meet the criteria of many of the available funding opportunities.

### **Public Consultation and community awareness**

The Townley gardens re-development was identified by a number of members of the community and the proposed project was discussed on the 26<sup>th</sup> October as an agenda item at the Longridge Community Partnership meeting

During the meeting it was agreed that we would develop the proposed project by undertaking some community public consultation, preparing a project proposal for Longridge Town Council and the landowners Ribble Valley Borough Council, and to identify any potential funding opportunities

Public consultation and evidence of need will be collected from a variety of sources

- Via social media
- Via face to face meets/ interviews at various community sessions and groups
- Via local the local newspaper
- Via an the free local community information brochures

This information will be collated and the data analysed. This information can then be used as supporting evidence for any future funding opportunities

### **The next steps**

- The proposal will be circulated for comment and feedback
- The expression of interest can be completed for the 11<sup>th</sup> December
- The public consultation can be completed and collated ready to be used for evidence
- A workshop can be held to formulate the full project development plan and timeline
- The TESCO application can be submitted
- Other match funding grants can be identified and applications completed