

SEDBERGH PARISH COUNCIL – 12 October 2017

Queen's Gardens

Maintenance programme:

The Friends of Queen's Gardens have formed a 'Gardening Group' and have undertaken excellent work in weeding and clearing vegetation on the pathways around the memorial cross, the steps and a strip of ground adjacent to the yew hedges. The Council's gardener has also made significant progress in clearing long grass and invasive weeds around the benches overlooking the bowling green and around the bastion walls. This work has already made a considerable impact in improving the appearance of the central part of the gardens.



Members of the Friends walked around the gardens with Hilary Taylor on 12 September and detailed written guidance on maintenance/management works has subsequently been received.

Heritage Lottery Fund bid:

The Council's agreement is requested to now submit a formal enquiry to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If a favourable response is received a grant application could be made (probably next year) to seek funding (£100k) for the substantial works of restoration recommended in Hilary Taylor's report. It is suggested that the purpose of the grant be described in the formal enquiry in the following terms:

To enable the Parish Council, in liaison with other bodies and volunteers, to implement the recommendations of a conservation & management plan for the Gardens which was commissioned by the Parish Council and prepared by Hilary Taylor and Peter Vickers in March 2017.

In particular the project will:

- 1. enable a survey of all built features by a conservation engineer and implementation of his/her recommendations so as to prevent their further deterioration and to undertake essential repair work to full conservation standards;*
- 2. enable an arboricultural survey of all trees to assess their condition and cultural significance to inform the short and long term management of the gardens which is respectful of Mawson's original design but which facilitates greater community use;*
- 3. enable the repair and renovation of pathways and path edgings;*
- 4. provide guidance for the maintenance and management of the garden by the Council's gardener assisted by an established voluntary group - 'The Friends of Queen's Gardens';*
- 5. stimulate the development of social, cultural and recreational activities within the gardens so as to bring this neglected community asset back into use for the benefit of residents and visitors; and*
- 6. promote a wider understanding of the importance of the gardens as a heritage asset and the work of Thomas Mawson*

Retaining wall to the Bowling Green:

The Bowling Club has drawn attention to the poor (and possibly dangerous) condition of the southern retaining wall to the bowling green.

At the last meeting it was agreed to appoint R G Parkins of Kendal to assess the condition of the wall and to make recommendation for its repair and Mr. Keith Lockwood (structural engineer), accompanied by the Chairman, inspected the wall on 27 September.

The report is expected to be received in time for consideration at the November meeting.



Dog Fouling:

At the last meeting it was agreed to commission Raven Graphics to supply 10 aluminium signs. The design has now been finalised and delivery is expected soon.

