

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Lottery Board Meeting	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	Richard Shaw	<b>OPEN</b>
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Diana Garden - progress update</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Swadlincote	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b> Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Lottery Board

## Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Garden – Progress update

### Defects correction period

We are at the end of the 6 month defects correction period. A meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> August will hopefully resolve final issues on the site. If SDDC are satisfied then this will trigger a retention payment.

### Planting maintenance period

In January 2019, the 12 month maintenance of the plants in the raised planters will end, if SDDC are satisfied, this will trigger the final retention payment.

Both of these final retention payments are known and are factored in to the final cost summary below.

### Income and expenditure summary

The income and expenditure summary table below illustrates that the amount left over is **£9,373.83**.

This figure of **£9,373.83** is made up of SDDC money that was secured specifically for the Diana Garden project at F&M Committee on 16/03/17. All HLF money for the Diana Garden has now been claimed.

This figure has been cross-checked with outgoing payments on Aggresso and would appear to be correct.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

## Project Expenditure

Total as detailed in the signed JCT Contract and schedule of works 03.05.17				94,579.36	
New final contract Sum (with extra costs added and costs deducted)					96,814.75
Extra for plinths for plaques					216.00
Extra hole drilled for electrics					175.45
Engraved plaques on the Stratford benches (estimate)					
				New construction Willy Albans total	97,206.20
				opening ceremony buffet	294.00
5k HLF pot				People Express consultation arts events	3000
				Artwork for 1x pull up banner	80
				x 3 banners for general HLF project	175.5
				artwork fees for banners	160
				townscape banners	63.1
				Diana garden site display boards	238.8
		Granite coping with poem part contribution	don't add to costs as already in the 97,206.20 total above	1282.6	
extra Diana banner x1					58.5
				<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>101,276.10</b>
<b>HLF income</b>					
HLF community arts for Diana Garden pot - 5k			activity plan pot	take off	5,000
HLF construction contribution			paid by HLF	take off	66,750
<b>SDDC Income</b>					
(excluding the 1500 in the 5k pot)				SDDC pot total	38605.93
Willy Albans contribution to the opening ceremony buffet (being subtracted from retention payment)					294
				<b>Income total</b>	<b>110,650</b>
				Amount for SDDC to cover with extra pot	29,526.10
				<b>Remaining funds within SDDC pot</b>	<b>9,373.83</b>

## Artwork screen on Grove Hall

There is still an intention to progress the project involving an artwork project that will improve the appearance of the Grove Hall wall.

There is a logical and methodical way of progressing this.

Firstly, we need to know for definite that the air conditioning units will be re-located to another wall – as this affects the project brief. This is looking much more certain and the new buildings maintenance officer, Mick O'Keefe, is presently progressing this, with the funding coming from a budget held by Malcolm Rosburgh. I am awaiting Mick's return from holiday to get the latest on how this is progressing.

There is also a need to involve the public in this project, as it is a very public space and the vision of the gardens revolved around involving local people as much as possible.

With regards to procurement, we have now received confirmation from the procurement department that the job advert we posted on the 'Arts Jobs' website is sufficient with regards to procurement. People Express were the only organisation to officially reply. Another organisation did ask some questions, but didn't submit anything.

In order to be managed professionally and democratically, it is expected that the artwork project could potentially involve the following steps and take approximately 12 months:

- Write brief;
- Put together a project panel (comprising a wide range of different people) who would ultimately decide on the type of artist selected and, alongside public input, the final artwork;
- Advertising for an artist;
- Interviewing artists and appointing one;
- Selected artist to run some workshops and events to ensure that the local residential and business communities, community groups and the wider public are involved;
- Design and production of the artwork and fixing to the wall.

The plan as it stands is to pay People Express a fixed sum to undertake all of the stages above and project manage everything for the Council. The artist would have to work within the budget parameters set. We would want to ensure that there is complete budget transparency throughout the project to ensure that SDDC can see how the money has been spent.

People Express have confirmed that the project as described above would be possible on an 8/9k budget.

We have been advised that different artists have different styles of working and it would allow more creative freedom to not restrict artists to using perforated metal panels with an image on – as originally planned. In selecting an artist, however, the Panel would be able to choose a style of artwork they were comfortable with.

Pending an update from Mick O'Keefe about the air conditioning relocation, we would now like to progress this project based on the above approach.

### **Swadlincote Lions**

We have been approached by the Swadlincote Lions who would a) be happy to help maintain the raised beds and b) like to place a memorial plaque in the gardens. This plaque is in memory of a long serving member of the Lions who left some money to the Lions after passing away.

The involvement of the Lions in the gardens is very positive.

It may be that they can work with other members of the community in the maintenance of the gardens to create the 'friends of' group that we were aspiring to create.

The placement of the plaque would need to be sensitively done, a suitable location adjacent to the CVS fence would keep it away from other elements of the garden whilst also having its own area. In this location, some additional planting could be added along this boundary in order to a) create a setting for the Lions plaque and b) help to screen the unsightly CVS fence. It may be that SDDC could help finance this planting.

### **Diana garden observation day**

We have undertaken a repeat Diana Garden observation day. This means that we observed the garden on 15 August 2014 and 15 August 2018 using the same methodology.

The headline figure is that people sitting down or spending time in the garden has risen by 83%. This is fantastic news.

More detailed observations are below:

#### **Key observations**

The garden is much more popular with regards to spending time, lingering and sitting down in than in 2014 with an 83% total increase in visitors (from 5 people in 2014 to 29 people in 2018 – across the three hours of monitoring);

The biggest increase in visitors was seen during the 1-2pm slot – with an increase from 3 people in 2014 to 19 people in 2018 (84%);

The biggest increase in spending time, lingering and sitting down in the garden was amongst children, females and groups of males/females and females/children. Overall across the three time slots there was a 50% increase in males, 40% increase in females, 100% increase in children, 100% increase in men and women visiting together (either in mixed or same sex groups) and 100% increase in females and children visiting together. Interestingly, all people sitting in the garden in 2014 were lone individuals, whereas in 2018 only 31% were lone individuals and the remaining 69% were visiting the gardens with someone else or exploring the gardens as children with their parents nearby;

In some cases, parents/carers were walking past the garden (and didn't enter) and the child with them entered the garden to walk along the raised planters and sometimes jump between planter and circular bench and sometimes to swing down on the nearby sign – so a positive outcome with regards to children wanting to use the space to play and explore in;

One group were collected by car outside the gardens after having sat down for 5 minutes, suggesting that it was used as a pick-up / meeting point for a town centre visit;

Only one person out of the 29 visitors were observed reading the timeline or poem (**Katherine to verify**)– this suggests that many people may have already visited the gardens before and had a look – or it could suggest some lack of interest in the text (or combination);

The most popular place to sit was on the circular tree seat, facing Sharpe's and the Co-op building – this would verify the 'defensible space' theory to some extent – people like to face the street and minimise others walking behind them. People could also see the bench as the focal point and more clearly a seat than the planter edge – this location is also closest to the street – so quick and easy to sit down on without going further in to the gardens;

The average time spent in the gardens per person was less in 2018 than in 2014 – although the low 2014 figures may skew this slightly – and some people in the 2018 survey were there beyond the survey period and the time wasn't able to be counted - it could show, however, that the trend is for more visitors but shorter stays;

Looking at gender and age, there was a particularly large increase in females and children generally walking past, through or spending time in the gardens – particularly between 1-2pm (+71% and +79% respectively). With a 27% and 50% increase across all time slots;

There was, however, a drop in females generally walking past, through or spending time in the gardens between 9:30-10:30am (8% decrease) and 4-5pm (19% decrease) since 2014, whilst males increased during these time slots by 22% and 35% respectively. It is possible that the pre-school in the Methodist Church on West Street may have closed since 2014 and this could skew results – although the pre-school may not have been open in the summer holidays in 2014?

Males generally walking past, through or spending time in the gardens dropped between 1-2pm, however, by 18%;

There was a drop in people walking through the gardens – down by 28% from 65 people in 2014 to 47 people in 2018 – this was particularly noticeable in the 4-5pm timeslot, with a 71% decrease – this is difficult to explain? But changes in routes walked could be a factor – as there was an increase in people walking past the gardens;

The 45% increase in people walking past the gardens could show that there are more people within the town centre generally, when compared to 2014;