

ADEPT PRESIDENT'S AWARDS 2019 Category 3: Improving the environment, promoting health

South Gloucestershire Council

Title: New life for Page Park

One sentence summary (no more than 150 characters).

Page Park restoration project has benefitted the local community beyond all expectations, adding social value, enhancing health and quality of life.

(147 Characters)

500 words outlining the project

Page Park is located in Staple Hill, South Gloucestershire, providing a green oasis in a community that experiences high social, economic, health and wellbeing needs. Over many decades the condition of the park's infrastructure and heritage features had significantly deteriorated, along with growing complaints around anti-social behaviour there was a need to restore and rejuvenate the park.

The Friends of Page Park (FoPP) sought the help of the Council to restore the park to provide a place where people could go to enjoy high quality facilities, outdoor events and to relax and meet other people in a safe, well-managed and welcoming setting. Aspirations were to enhance quality of life for the local community by re-establishing the park as a safe cohesive hub for health and wellbeing, whilst linking to the wider restoration of Staple Hill High Street.

Acknowledging the Council had insufficient resources to complete the significant restoration required, FoPP were undeterred. In 2009 FoPP and the Council agreed a vision for the restoration of the park, the partnership engaged with the local community through numerous surveys and face to face consultation exercises to prioritise plans for the park, including restoring historic features and upgrading facilities.

FoPP and the Council embarked on a journey that resulted in a successful £2.2m project to restore the park with £1.67m awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The application bought its own challenges. The first HLF 'Parks for People' application was unsuccessful. Undeterred the Council and FoPP learnt from this experience and using feedback from HLF, undertook further work to provide greater evidence to justify the need for the project and more clearly identify community support.

BEFORE



AFTER



The vision for Page Park has achieved much more than the original desire to restore the park. The legacy of this work is a sustainably managed park that has become a thriving hub at the centre of the local community boasting a new award winning café / community building (Bean Tree café and Nest) that supports community activities and draws in people that have not previously visited the park. Community events take place throughout the year and a wide range of community organisations now benefit from its restored facilities and infrastructure.



The park is now a safe and welcoming community space with a growing number of community volunteers actively engaged in the care and management. With the support of South Gloucestershire Council, care of the park has become self-sustaining. FoPP's growing sense of pride and ambition is evidenced by the fact that they have independently raised over £350,000 to improve the park since their inception in 1999. The new café adds to a sustainable income stream to fund future ambitions.

South Gloucestershire Council and FoPP aspire to achieve 'Green Flag' status in 2019 and are creating a new community growing area in the park. Future ambitions include a new toddler play area, further landscape enhancements and improvements to tree health. The legacy of the project is a park fit for future generations to enjoy.

499 words