

North Yorkshire County Council
Business and Environmental Services

Executive Members

22 October 21

Allerton Waste Recovery Park Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund

Report of the Assistant Director – Travel, Environment and Countryside Services

1.0 Purpose of Report

- | |
|---|
| 1.1 To provide an update on the Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund to date (LCHF) |
|---|

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Section 106 Agreement for Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) was signed on 14 February 2013 and included the requirement for the Council to establish a Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund (LCHF).
- 2.2 The purpose of the LCHF was in use towards reducing the visual and landscape impacts of the development and the delivery of enhancement and strengthening of the local landscape character, biodiversity and/or features of cultural heritage prioritised within a 3.5km radius of AWRP. The LCHF has been informed by the Landscape Management Strategy developed by Amey and approved by the Planning Authority which includes a Conservation Management Plan and Outline Habitat Management Plan. The original value of the LCHF was £839,500.
- 2.3 On 18 September 2015, a report was approved by BES Executive Members to enter into a contract with Two Ridings Community Foundation (TRCF) to manage distribution of the LCHF on behalf of the County Council. The contract began on 1 October 2015 and ended on 1 October 2019. The contract was extended for one year until 1 October 2020 in line with the original contract provisions. Due to Covid-19, the contract was then extended a further six months and ended on 31st March 2021.
- 2.4 The small grants fund (£100 to £1,000) was launched in October 2015, the large grants fund (£10,001 to £50,000) was opened in December 2015 and the medium grants fund (£1,001 to £10,000) was opened in early 2017 (the upper limit for medium grants was subsequently extended to £25,000).
- 2.5 Applications for the large and medium grant fund were normally assessed at an independent panel meeting. The panel was made up of NYCC and HBC Councillors, the local community, technical advisors and TRCF. Two meetings were held per year to maximise scope for delivery of projects taking into account planting and seasonal activities. The last panel meeting was held on 29 January 2020.
- 2.6 The large grant element of the fund was over-subscribed with 14 grants accounting for over half of the fund. The fund was consequently suspended for large grants and the 1 February 2018 was the last large grants panel. The large grant fund was not reopened due to the amount of applications made to the small and medium grant funds.

- 2.7 Funding for small grants has been released by TRCF providing that the projects meet the necessary requirements set out in the guidance information and application process.
- 2.8 A small amount of outstanding work will now be managed by both the Waste Management Team and Heritage Services Team, NYCC. Further details are provided in paragraph 3.5.

3.0 Project Update

- 3.1 Since the launch of the fund in October 2015, 122 applications were received to the fund and 92 awards were made with a total value of £742,126.
- 3.2 The table below shows the number of awards made in each size category:

	Number of grants	Total value of grants awarded
Small grant awards	51	£45,285
Medium grant awards	27	£202,406
Large grant awards	14	£494,435
Total	92	£742,126

- 3.3 The table below shows the distribution of grant awards by type of applicant:

	Number of grants	Total value of grants awarded
Individuals	49	£259,543
Community groups/charities/churches	16	£233,825
Parish Councils	17	£156,856
Schools	9	£71,902
Businesses	1	£20,000
Total	92	£742,126

- 3.4 Appendix A provides details of all awarded projects, project spend and a progress update on the various projects. End of grant reports have been received for the majority of the completed projects.
- 3.5 The Panel recommended any remaining money left in the fund is administered by NYCC, in consultation with the NYCC Waste Planning Authority. This small amount of outstanding work is now being managed by both the Waste Management Team and Heritage Services Team, NYCC. Since the TRCF contract finished, the Waste Management Team has awarded funds to two projects, with the approval of Cllr Windass, Chair of the LCHF Panel. The Heritage Services Team is hoping to finalise the award of funding for the repair of the Allerton Park Wall project. Approval from Cllr Windass will be requested for this, once the details are finalised. There is also one project that will be returning money to the fund due to the sale of scrap wrought iron fencing.
- 3.6 Of the £742,126 which was awarded, approx. £39,000 has been returned for various reasons. Allowing for the TRCF fees to administer the fund (£126k which is 15% of the value of the fund), there remains approx. £10,000.
- 3.7 It was also suggested by the Panel members that any remaining monies were distributed to the local Parish Councils for them to spend on projects in accordance with the LCHF project principles. The amount remaining is approx. £10,000. The Heritage Services Team at NYCC will manage this process.

- 3.8 TRCF have produced a Final Report (see Appendix B) explaining what the fund has been spent on and the difference this has made. As you can see from the Final Report, the LCHF has been a huge success, below are extracts from the report:
- 3.8 kilometres of hedgerow has been repaired
 - 2.9 kilometres of new hedgerow has been planted
 - 3400 trees have been planted
 - 14 ponds have been created or restored
 - 8 new wildlife areas have been created, including over 2000 square metres of new wildflower planting
 - Outdoor education & wildlife spaces have been created at 6 schools & 1 local charity
 - 14 projects have received funding to restore local features of cultural heritage
 - 2.2km of pathways have been created or repaired improving access for the local community into the local countryside.
- The report also summarises the added value of the fund.
- The value to the economy through use of local contractors and goods and services purchased locally within Harrogate District, is calculated at £171,086 (of this £97,359 was spent within a 5 mile radius of the AWRP)
 - 172 volunteers have been involved providing a total of 7604 volunteer working hours and a further £51,100 financial contribution has been added to the projects from other sources.
- 3.9 The success of the Fund will be promoted through the media. The Final Report by TRCF will also be available on the NYCC, CYC and AWRP websites.
- 3.10 A Final Report will be provided to the BES Executive Members once all funds have been spent.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 TRCF has a robust equalities policy in place which has been used as part of the fund assessment process. The equalities information has been collected through the application forms for the medium and large grants fund and proportional information has been collected in relation to the small grants fund. This information was used to inform specific targeted marketing/outreach activities to ensure that the LCHF process was accessible to the widest audience given the parameters on the fund set by the planning process.
- 4.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed by TRCF on the LCHF. The outcome was no adverse impact and therefore no change needed. Information on the TRCF equalities policy was also been provided to NYCC.
- 4.3 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been completed by NYCC and it concludes a full EIA is not relevant or proportionate. The completed form is in Appendix C.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The fund was launched in October 2015 and to date 92 awards were made with a total value of £742,126. Allowing for the TRCF fees to administer the fund, there remains approx. £10,000 to be allocated to the local Parish Councils.
- 5.2 There are no additional financial implications arising for NYCC as a result of this report

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 In accordance with the previous LCHF reports, funding release for the large and medium projects is subject to the standard NYCC Terms and Conditions.

6.2 Claw back provisions are included as part of the grant agreements, which will protect the longevity of the funds impacts and projects undertaken.

7.0 Climate Change Implications

7.1 There are no negative climate change implications. The fund has had a variety of positive impacts on climate change and these impacts are summarised in paragraph 3.6 of this report.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 To note the update on the LCHF.

MICHAEL LEAH

Assistant Director – Travel & Environment, Waste and Countryside Services, BES

Author of Report: Suzanne Williamson

Background Documents: None

AWRP LCHF Project Update - Small Projects

Project Summary	Status/Progress	Amount Awarded	Actual Amount Returned
Funding for Marton cum Grafton Woodlands Group to purchase a variety of bird boxes to promote ecological diversity within the Marton Cum Grafton woodland.	Complete	£957.00	£0.00
Funding for Whixley and District Community Cricket Club to improve the landscape around the cricket club by planting a mixture of native saplings and improving hedgerows.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to repair a listed brick wall at Allerton Park.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Little Ouseburn Parish Council to create a seating area and floral display on the entrance to the village.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Great Ouseburn Parish Council for initial consultancy work for the development of landscape and ecological enhancements in Great Ouseburn.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to pay for landscape architects fees to prepare a planting scheme to provide screening for a private residence close to AWRP.	Complete	£600.00	£0.00
Funding for the costs of carrying out isotope testing on a Roman skeleton found at Grafton.	Complete	£1,000.00	£4.00
Funding for a private individual to remove Leylandii hedging and replace with native species hedgerow	Complete	£996.00	£0.00
Funding to improve habitats for local wildlife around Marton Cum Grafton and to hold a public information evening around improving habitats for hedgehogs.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Friends of Marton School to run outdoor education activity sessions for local school children led by The Conservation Volunteers. Children will learn about wildlife habitats and build bird, bat and hedgehog boxes in their new woodland classroom area.	Complete	£900.00	£0.00
Funding to create a wetland and pond area at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Marton cum Grafton Parish Council to plant 18,000 bulbs in the verges around the village of Marton cum Grafton	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Replacement of leylandii hedging at a private residence	Complete	£990.00	£0.00

APPENDIX A

Planting for screening at a private residence	Project not undertaken due to house move	£950.00	£950.00
Funding for Goldsborough & Flaxby Parish Council for a disused telephone box to house a defibrillator.	Complete	£730.00	£0.00
Funding to replace rotten fencing with a native species hedge along with planting native shrubs and trees to encourage more wildlife at a private residence.	Complete	£996.00	£0.00
Funding to remove leylandii hedge and plant new soft fruit trees at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to supply and plant new native hedging at a private residence	Progress update / end of grant report required	£939.00	£0.00
Funding to supply and plant new native hedging at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Removal of nuisance species and supply and planting of native hedgerow at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding for the Marton cum Grafton Memorial Hall Committee to restore a wall and gate post which is a heritage asset in the local community.	Complete	£715.00	£0.00
Funding to undertake a number of measures to improve local wildlife habitats including tree and wildflower planting, hedgerow infill planting and additional tree and wildflower planting to support wildlife habitats at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to create a new hedgerow and pond to improve local wildlife habitats and increase biodiversity at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Kirk Hammerton Nursery School to help renovate an outdoor area of a nursery school into a gardening and wildlife area. The project will be of great educational benefit to the nursery school children and the wildlife area will be used to encourage bees and butterflies.	Complete	£500.00	£0.00
Funding to plant seven crab apple trees with early pollinator underplanting and a bat box at an individuals property to benefit local wildlife.	Complete	£400.00	£0.00
Funding for Parish of the Dunsforths for tree planting in community spaces in Upper Dunsforth.	Complete	£274.00	£0.00
Funding to plant two new hedgerows and fill gaps in an existing hedgerow to improve wildlife habitats and increase biodiversity at a private residence	Complete	£994.50	£0.00

APPENDIX A

Funding for Great Ouseburn Parish Council to undertake an ecological survey to establish the scope for a wildflower meadow with grass mown paths for recreation at the Fishpond Bridge area of Ousegill Beck.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Planting of native trees, provision of stock fencing and natural hedgerow for a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
To establish a wildflower meadow within orchard adjoining the paddock at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Planting trees to create a screen at a private residence	Progress update / end of grant report required	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to remove non-native conifers and magnolia and plant fruit trees and native shrubs at a private residence	Complete	£984.00	£0.00
Funding for Staveley Community Primary School to create a specific wildlife area in school.	Complete	£821.00	£0.00
Funding for Ferrensby Parish Meeting for an ecology report to support the larger pond refurbishment project.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to provide planting for pollinating insects to increase biodiversity at a private residence	Complete	£975.00	£0.00
Funding for Kirk Hammerton Primary school to provide a pond grill to enable the school to provide safe pond dipping activities for children.	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to cover the cost of compost, labour and planting flowers and perennials that encourage wildlife - birds, butterflies and bees (pollinators) at a private residence	Complete	£810.00	£0.00
Funding to purchase wild flowers, bulbs and timber to make bird nesting boxes to encourage wildlife to the area at a private residence	Complete	£552.00	£0.00
Funding to convert a garden into a wildlife pond. This private property is situated in a conservation area and we would like to attract more wild birds/wildlife through water. We have provided hibernation features for hedgehogs.	Progress update / end of grant report required	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to create new native hedgerow and gap existing hedgerow at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to plant 60 metres of native beech hedgerow at a private residence	Complete	£550.00	£0.00
Funding for planting & new hedgerow selected to encourage wildlife, birds and pollinating insects at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00

APPENDIX A

Funding to create an area of new hedgerow to support birds and butterflies at a private residence	Complete	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to undertake tree & hedgerow planting at a private residence	Complete	£869.00	£0.00
Funding to plant native hedging that will increase bio-diversity at a private residence	Complete	£438.00	£0.00
Funding for Marton cum Grafton Christ Church to replace a rotten tree stump with a semi-mature rowan tree which provides a feature in the churchyard.	Complete	£744.00	£0.00
Funding to plant trees and shrubs and create a pond to encourage wildlife and improve local biodiversity at a private residence	Progress update / end of grant report required	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to plant trees and shrubs to create additional screening and encourage wildlife at a private residence	Progress update / end of grant report required	£1,000.00	£0.00
Funding to plant new native hedgerow and orchard trees at a private residence	Progress update / end of grant report required	£1,000.00	£0.00
To extend the planting to encourage wildlife plant native species and visually improve local landscape at a private residence	Progress update / end of grant report required	£1,000.00	£0.00
Consultancy fee for wildlife pond.	Complete	£600.00	£0.00

Total (51 projects)

£45,284.50

£954.00

AWRP LCHF Project Update - Medium Projects

Project Summary	Status/Progress	Amount Awarded	Actual Amount Returned
Funding for Nuzzlets to develop and improve a range of wildlife habitats on the site. The habitats will be used to educate children with and without learning disabilities.	Complete	£5,389.00	£0.00
Funding for Great Ouseburn Parish Council to undertake the next stage of the Fishpond Bridge conservation area project to include ecological surveys and full technical drawings to be produced.	Complete	£4,110.00	£0.00
Funding for a private individual to purchase trees and protective fencing to provide screening, make visual improvements to the local landscape and increase local biodiversity by creating new habitats.	Complete	£8,961.00	£0.00

APPENDIX A

Funding for the restoration of the roof and external walls of a heritage building which is a private residence in the village of Arkendale.	Complete	£9,999.00	£0.00
Funding for the Friends of Kirk Hammerton School to create a wildlife area within the school grounds to improve habitats and support children's learning about the environment.	Complete	£8,766.00	£0.00
Funding to purchase equipment for use by the volunteers of the Harrogate Support Group in supporting the work of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust at the Staveley nature reserve and also to site a shipping container to store the equipment on site.	Complete	£9,931.00	£0.00
Funding for KindleWood CIC to support the restoration of the coppice where participants will cut coppice, restore the pond area and widen one of the rides. This in turn will promote biodiversity and encourage wildlife numbers to increase.	Complete	£10,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Whixley Parish Council to encourage wildlife, planting of native species, visual improvement, preserving and improving cultural heritage through the planting of native wildflowers and bulbs and information boards to educate the public about the local landscape.	Complete	£5,000.00	£0.00
Funding for St Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council to install electrical equipment to power the clock and chimes.	Complete	£4,479.00	£0.00
Funding for the Friends of Great Ouseburn School to create an outdoors classroom and sensory area at a school playground.	Progress update / end of grant report required	£8,870.00	£0.00
Funding for the The Conservation Volunteers to support the Ouse Beck Wetland Himalayan Balsam Removal Project.	Progress update / end of grant report required	£8,087.50	£0.00
Promotional seed packets	Complete	£1,050.00	£0.00
Funding for the Whixley Heritage Project for refurbishment of heritage stained glass windows in the church as part of a wider community heritage project.	Complete	£10,000.00	£0.00
Schools bird boxes	Complete	£1,998.00	£0.00
Funding for Ferrensby Parish Meeting for works to improve the pond area and village green in Ferrensby	Complete	£3,393.00	£0.00

APPENDIX A

Funding to create 193 metres of new native hedgerow for a private residence	Complete	£6,596.63	£0.00
Funding for Great Ouseburn Parish Council to undertake improvements to the Fishpond Bridge area of Ouse Gill Beck including planting of wildflowers, creation of small ponds and an interpretation board.	Complete	£4,885.00	£0.00
Funding for a private individual to repair the external rendering of a historic dovecote building by removing the existing badly damaged rendering and replacing with a lime based render.	Complete	£7,456.00	£0.00
The grant will be used by Staveley & Copgrove Parish Council to improve the area around the village pinfold and the play area together with the replacement of a tree on one of the village greens and the refurbishment of the BT phone box which is used to house the village defibrillator.	Complete	£9,176.00	£0.00
Funding to replace wrought iron fencing and undertake essential tree work at the entrance to Staveley village.	Progress update / end of grant report required	£17,640.00	£1,000.00
Funding for St Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council to install an automatic mechanism for the church clock and to provide automated winding and chimes.	Complete	£3,479.00	£978.00
Funding for a private individual to plant hedgerows which will have a positive impact on environmental bio-diversity and create windbreaks for wildlife.	Progress update / end of grant report required	£8,713.00	£0.00
Funding for Ferrensby Parish Meeting for work to improve the pond area in Ferrensby	Complete	£22,000.00	£3,896.20
Funding for a private individual to implement a series of environmental measures that will improve the habitat and increase bio-diversity. This will include pond improvements, tree planting and educational sessions with schools.	Complete	£8,335.09	£0.00
Funding for a private individual to plant trees which will improve habitats for wildlife.	Complete	£2,640.00	£0.00
Funding for a private individual to plant trees and hedging which will enhance the habitat for birds and wildlife.	Fund no longer required due to house move	£1,452.00	£1,452.00
Funding for Boroughbridge High School to renovate the school pond to improve local habitats and create a safe outdoor learning space	Complete	£10,000.00	£0.00

Total (27 projects)

£202,406.22

£7,326.20

AWRP LCHF Project Update - Large Projects

Project Summary	Status/Progress	Amount Awarded	Actual Amount Returned
Funding to restore a Grade II Listed building within the grounds of Allerton Castle.	Progress update / end of grant report required	£50,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Arkendale, Coneythorpe and Clareton Parish Council for costs of survey work and professional fees for two large replanting and regeneration projects, and costs of refurbishing a telephone box.	Complete	£26,052.00	£0.00
Funding for Marton cum Grafton Woodlands Group to support the costs of a path regeneration project and to remove invasive Himalayan Balsam.	Complete	£44,984.00	£0.00
Funding for St Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council for replanting and regeneration scheme for the local churchyard.	Complete	£35,109.27	£4,977.99
Funding for an environmental improvement project for residents of Clareton Lane.	Complete	£33,212.53	£10,153.91
Funding for a regeneration and screening scheme for a private residence overlooking the AWRP.	Complete	£40,390.15	£4,672.83
Funding to repair a length of the badly dilapidated section of listed wall at Allerton Park	Liz Small (Growth and Heritage Services Manager, NYCC) working with Grantee	£50,000.00	£0.00
Planting for screening for a private residence	Complete	£19,715.00	£10,990.00
Funding for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust towards a project to replace and extend a decayed wooden boardwalk and fencing at Upper Dunsforth Carrs SSSI.	Complete	£47,000.00	£0.00
Funding for Arkendale, Coneythorpe and Clareton Parish Council for a large scale planting & environmental improvement project, gapping 1.05 km of hedgerows, providing additional trees for screening and restoration work at the Mar, an important local wetland habitat.	Complete	£41,253.00	£0.00
Funding for Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council to make the woodland more accessible through the resurfacing of the path, which in turn will encourage people to keep to the path and ensure the wildflowers are able to continue to grow.	Complete	£34,983.00	£0.00
Funding for Marton cum Grafton CE (VA) Primary School for a large scale planting of hedgerows and provision of an outdoor classroom	Progress update / end of grant report required	£39,947.00	£0.00

Funding for Yorkshire Farming & Wildlife LLP on a programme of hedgerow restoration including hedge laying, coppicing and gapping up. Existing standard trees will be retained in the hedges to be restored. Local hedgelayers and forestry workers will be employed to carry out the work and the funding will also be used to purchase native species shrubs from a local tree nursery to gap up the restored hedges where necessary.	Complete	£20,000.00	£0.00
Funding for a private residence for planting for screening and to improve local biodiversity.	Complete	£11,790.00	£71.68

Total (14 projects)**£494,435.95****£30,866.41****Initial equality impact assessment screening form**

(As of October 2015 this form replaces 'Record of decision not to carry out an EIA')

This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.

Directorate	BES
Service area	Travel & Environment, Waste and Countryside Services
Proposal being screened	Releasing funds from the Allerton Waste Recovery Park, Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Suzanne Williamson
What are you proposing to do?	Implement the Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund for Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) (as set out in the section 106 planning agreement). The Fund was managed and delivered through a third party organisation (Two Ridings Community Foundation) who set up an independent panel to make recommendations on projects to receive funding through the LCHF. The contract with TRCF has now come to an end and it was suggested by the Panel members that any remaining monies were distributed to the local Parish Councils for them to spend on projects in accordance with the LCHF project principles.
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	The purpose of the LCHF is to assist with mitigating the impacts of the AWRP development by using the fund to deliver projects to enhance and strengthen the local landscape character, biodiversity and/or features of cultural heritage prioritised within a 3.5km radius of the Site. The priority areas and types of projects which could be delivered through the LCHF are set out in two separate planning documents – the Landscape Management Strategy and Outline Habitat Management Plan.
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No – the total fund amount £839,500 was made available in 2014, with a view to the fund being spent within five years. This decision is to

	release the remaining funding to the local Parish Councils for projects in keeping with the LCHF		
<p>Is there likely to be an adverse impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics?</p> <p>As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? <p>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be a significant adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <u>Equality rep</u> for advice if you are in any doubt.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Yes	No	Don't know/No info available
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex (Gender)		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
NYCC additional characteristic			
People in rural areas		✓	
People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	✓	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	Release of the project funding from the LCHF does not have adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics.		

APPENDIX A

Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Michael Leah
Date	05.08.21

Allerton Waste Recovery Park Landscape & Cultural Heritage Fund

Final Report - April 2021

As part of the planning process for the Allerton Waste Recovery Park, North Yorkshire County Council were required to establish a Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund and Two Ridings Community Foundation managed the distribution of the fund on behalf of the County Council.

The Allerton Park Landscape and Cultural Heritage Fund was designed to assist with projects which enhanced the landscape, cultural heritage and biodiversity of the designated area of benefit around the Allerton Waste Recovery Park and also projects which helped to mitigate the visual effects of the site within that same area.

The area of benefit was defined by the boundary of the landscape character areas and communities most affected by the development. This included communities within the parish boundaries of: Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Arkendale, Coneythorpe & Clareton and Flaxby.

And included some areas within the parish boundaries of: Marton Cum Grafton, Great Ouseburn, Little Ouseburn, Goldsborough, Whixley, Staveley, Boroughbridge, Ferrensby, Knaresborough, Dunsforths.



Where did the money go?

Grants were available to community groups, charities, individuals and private businesses. The fund was launched and the first awards were made in April 2016 and the final awards were made in February 2020. During this period 122 applications were received to the fund and 92 awards were made with a total value of £742,126.

There were three levels of funding awarded: Small grants up to the value of £1000, Medium grants from £1001 to £10,000 and Large grants from £10,001 to £50,000

The table below shows the number of awards made in each size category

	Number of grants	Total value of grants awarded
Small grant awards	51	£45,285
Medium awards	27	£202,406
Large	14	£494,435

The table below shows the distribution of grant awards by type of applicant

	Number of grants	Total value of grants awarded
Individuals	49	£259,543
Community groups/charities/churches	16	£233,825
Parish Councils	17	£156,856
Schools	9	£71,902
Businesses	1	£20,000

What difference has this made?

Improving landscapes and increasing local biodiversity

3.8 kilometres of hedgerow has been repaired



2.9 kilometers of new hedgerow has been planted



3400 trees have been planted



14 ponds have been created or restored and 8 new wildlife areas have been created including over 2000 square metres of new wildflower planting along with new wetland areas and installation of numerous bat and bird boxes to increase local biodiversity and/or improve the local landscape and public spaces.



Ferrensby parish meeting received a grant to give the village pond area a facelift, reinforcing the banks, dredging and introducing new planting.



Whixley parish council received a grant to increase wildflower planting in public spaces within the village

Wildflower planting for pollinating insects at Marton Cum Grafton



Arkendale & Coneythorpe parish council received funding to undertake an extensive tree planting programme throughout the parish and to improve the area around the Mar for both wildlife and the local community. The parish council reported: 'The difference is significant and already the increase and increased diversity in bird life especially is obvious. I am told the same is the case for amphibious life, the great crested newts in particular. The other significant difference the works have had is the impact on the visual character of the area.

The Mar was a dilapidated and sorry looking water body. You could not see it's full extent for the scrub and tree cover and it was an under utilised and under appreciated village asset. Now it looks fantastic and not only attracts wildlife but also people from the village who walk to it or walk through it, especially when out with their dogs'.



This pond in Marton Cum Grafton provides a home for rare species associated with native wetlands and rarely found in isolated field ponds. The careful removal of silt and overgrowth to restore more permanent open water has improved this natural habitat.



Education

Outdoor education & wildlife spaces have been created at 6 schools & 1 local charity that provides outdoor learning experiences for children with life limiting illnesses.



Boroughbridge High school received funding to make the school pond area into a useable space for pond dipping and outdoor learning.



Although Boroughbridge High School sits just outside the area of benefit, its catchment area includes pupils from the primary schools within the Allerton Park Landscape & Cultural Heritage fund area. They are delighted with the space that has been created following the clearing of the pond and are looking forward to receiving more wildlife visitors, they have installed a wildlife camera to capture images to enable the children to see what is happening when they are not there. A science teacher at Boroughbridge High school said, 'The area looks amazing and is being used weekly now, in fact I can't keep them out of it, which is great'. They are also planning to establish a 'womble' group to help with litter picking and maintaining the space.

To further support outdoor learning, all local schoolchildren were offered a voucher to enable them to receive a free bird box or bug hotel to install at home.



Staff from Two Ridings Community Foundation and Rabbit Hill Country Store at the launch of the bird box scheme

Cultural Heritage

14 projects have received funding to restore local features of cultural heritage including refurbishment of telephone boxes at Arkendale, Goldsborough and Staveley, restoration of the historic pinfold at Staveley and the renovation of the area around the war memorial at St Bartholomew's Church in Arkendale.



The pinfold at Staveley was refurbished, removing damaging overgrown vegetation and replacing the gate.





The war memorial area at St Bartholomew's church was resurfaced to make it more accessible, railings were installed around the churchyard to make the space safer and useable for community events and seating was installed.

In Whixley, the Whixley Heritage project received funding to contribute to a large community heritage project to both restore significant stained glass windows in the local church and also to research and tell the story of Whixley. This project involved a large number of community members, young and old, and now forms a display in the local church.

Whixley Heritage Story

The Romans invaded these parts in the First Century AD. Our village is situated on Rudgate, the Roman road linking Aldborough (Isurium) with Tadcaster (Calcaria). Native tribes would have settled here to trade with weary soldiers who marched along this highway, and nearby Dere Street, linking York (Eboracum) with the north of Britain.





In Saxon times, Whixley was called Cwichelem's Leah, in the kingdom of Northumbria, under King Edwin, who was baptised in York's earlier Minster in AD627.

Christianity had been brought to these shores by Augustinian monks and through St Aidan's missionaries from Iona and Lindisfarne in the 7th Century. Christians have worshipped on this hallowed site for over 1000 years.

The Synod of Whitby in AD666 harmonised the different practices of Augustinian and Celtic Christianity.

When William the Conqueror invaded Britain in 1066, he commissioned a great survey, "The Domesday Book". In it was recorded the existence of a church, lands and a settlement engaged in farming, in Cuchelaga, as this place was then known. The lands here were then governed on the king's behalf by a Norman knight, William de Perci. As our language evolved, Cuchelaga became Quixle, before becoming the present day Whixley.



THE WHIXLEY HERITAGE PROJECT 2019

Life in the Middle Ages

Under Whixley's feudal Lord of the Manor, the land was worked by peasant farmers under the Open-field strip-farming system. Disputes, (of which there were many), were settled at the local Court Leet.



Early strip-farm ploughing



Cherry-growing

Extensive Cherry-growing was introduced by the Friars of Knitroboro in 14th century, who received tithes in return for providing education, medicine, legal-aid, spiritual guidance and church services for the local community. Many properties in the village still have "Cherry" in their title.

Church records show that between 14th-19th century, Whixley became a self-enclosed community with yeomen, butchers, waggons, weavers, blacksmiths, farm-workers, tanners, shop-keepers, builders and schoolmasters.

The Tancred family acquired most of the village land 1600-1800 which was chiefly rented to tenant farmers, whilst their Park in 1744 was completely walled and stocked with 40 deer.




Map of Whixley strip lands




Original park wall photograph also shown in detail

THE WHIXLEY HERITAGE PROJECT 2019


A Prominent Family

The Tancred family, descendants of the Duke of Normandy, come to England with William the Conqueror in 1066, seizing extensive lands throughout this area.


During the English Civil War (1642-1651), Richard Tancred and his son Charles, actively support the Royalist cause, themselves fighting in the battle of Marston Moor nearby.



Christopher Tancred



Whixley Hall c.1850




Tancred coat of arms

In 17th century, Whixley Hall is built and occupied by a branch of the Tancred family, into which Christopher is born in 1689. At a young age, he studies law at Christ College, and, in 1705, returns to occupy Whixley Hall, where he becomes both lord of the manor and a local judge.

On his death in 1754, Christopher leaves most of his wealth to Christ College Trust whilst the rest of his estate establishes a hospital for "twelve indigent and decaying gentlemen". Following an Act of Parliament the hospital closes down in 1872. In his will, Christopher demands that his body should never be buried, and his coffin is left hanging in the Hall's wine cellar until it is finally brought to rest in this church.

The Governors of the Tancred Charities supported the building of the Village School in 1853, and donated a tenor bell at the time of the church restoration in 1862.



Whixley School c.1853

THE WHIXLEY HERITAGE PROJECT 2019

Changes down the centuries

The site on which you stand had probably been the centre for primitive worship well before the Romans introduced Christianity to Europe as recorded by the Venerable Bede in 156 AD.



Primitive church



Norman font



Pre 1853

In the early Norman days, Christian people worshipped here in wooden structures which were burnt down by the marauding Scots during their frequent raids in the north of England. However, we know that an early stone church already existed here before the 1066 invasion by William the Conqueror as evidenced by a Norman window arch and a hexagonal stone font, along with documentary evidence in King William's Domesday survey of 1086.

Early paintings on the walls survived the over-painting by the Puritans in the 17th century, when the musician's gallery was probably removed.

In 1853, when the Reverend William Valentine was appointed as vicar, he set upon restoring the church, replacing the roof, porch, pulpit, reredos, and organ using both his own money and public subscription. The church was re-dedicated at a grand ceremony in 1862.

A further restoration took place in the 1990s headed by parishioners to bring the building back to its former glory. In 2000, the social area under the tower was created, along with a new lighting system in 2016, and two restored stained-glass windows in 2019 as part of the Whixley Heritage Project.



Early stone coffin



Restored church 1862



Restored window 2019





THE WHIXLEY HERITAGE PROJECT 2019

Welcome to OUSE GILL BECK

Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC)



The stream ahead of you, Ouse Gill Beck, has had huge symbolic significance since pagan times. Rising from springs some 2 kms upstream, marked by a stone column erected in the 1700's, it gushes flows downstream to join the River Ure.

THE WHIXLEY HERITAGE PROJECT 2019

Ouse Gill Beck at Fishpond bridge has been improved with wildflower planting and new scrapes providing additional wetland habitat but in addition, a new interpretation board celebrates the significance of this area from a cultural heritage aspect providing historical information about the area.



Phone boxes at Goldsborough and Staveley have been refurbished and now house the village defibrillators.



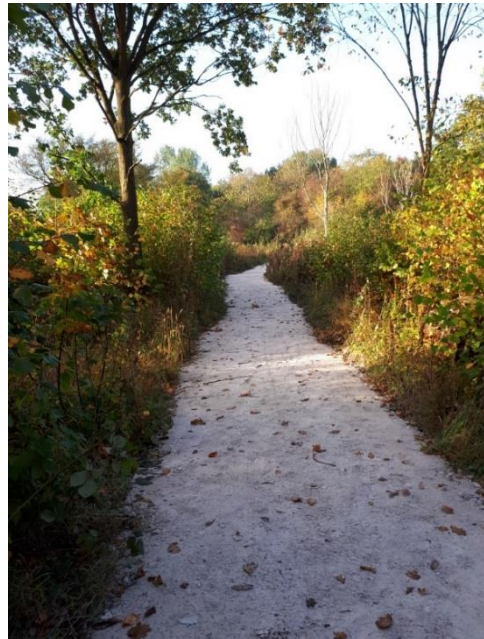
Improving access

2.2km of pathways have been created or repaired improving access for the local community into the local countryside.

Goldsborough parish council received funding to improve pathways and replace stiles to improve access.

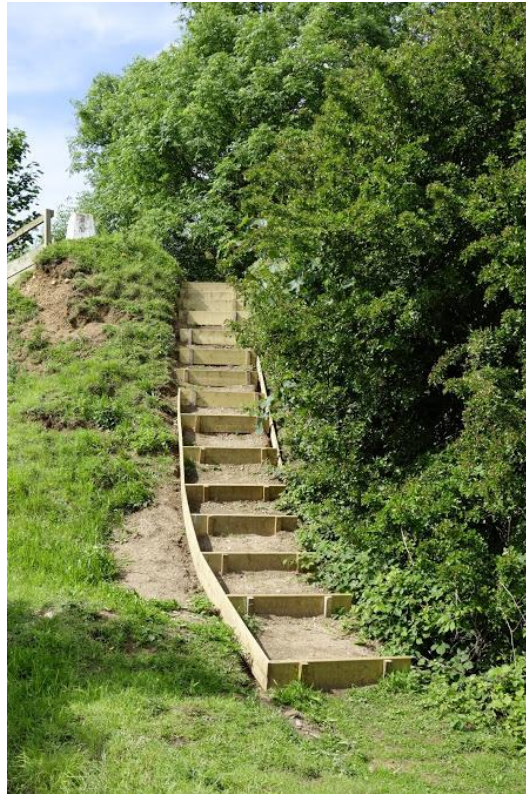


Improvements to pathways in Goldsborough parish means a much drier outing for walkers of the Knaresborough round.



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust received funding to improve and extend the boardwalk at Upper Dunsforth Carrs and at the same time were able to make use of recycled material. They said 'The installation of 230m of recycled plastic boardwalk at Upper Dunsforth Carrs has improved access to the reserve significantly. The previous wooden boardwalk had rotted in many places and was not safe or suitable. This new plastic boardwalk is much safer and has a vastly greater lifespan compared to using traditional wooden boards. The recycled plastic used is sourced exclusively from UK materials, such as milk bottles and other plastic containers. It's estimated that the new boardwalk could contain between 50,000 and 60,000 recycled milk bottles'.

Marton Cum Grafton Woodlands Group received funding to improve and extend the network of pathways through the woodland. They said: 'The major beneficiaries have been the local population, of all ages, who are now enjoying a safe & proficient path network. There have been numerous positive comments made by local & not so local residents regarding the outcome of this project. The additional path route has significantly expanded the network giving greater options to both walkers & runners to enjoy their local environment & increase their activity. We have noticed not just a significant increase in use by the local population but also of residents from as far away as Whixley. Young children have particularly benefited as the local primary school, and children from a wider catchment area including Boroughbridge & Great Ouseburn, are now using the



woodland to a far greater degree than previously. The environment has also benefited through using the new South West path to help control the spread of Himalayan Balsam into the Parish Woodland & also to help facilitate our bird box monitoring project'.

Added Value

In delivering the various funded projects, the value to the economy through use of local contractors and goods and services purchased locally within Harrogate District, is calculated at £171,086 (of this £97,359 was spent within a 5 mile radius of the Allerton Waste Recovery Park).



172 volunteers have been involved providing a total of 7604 volunteer working hours and a further £51,100 financial contribution has been added to the projects from other sources.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust volunteers replacing and extending the boardwalk at Upper Dunsforth Carr to improve access



The Conservation volunteers digging out a pond to create a community wildlife area from a disused allotment at Great Ouseburn

In conclusion

The large variety of projects that have received funding from the Allerton Park Landscape & Cultural Heritage fund will provide a lasting benefit to this area. Projects have been funded which will encourage wildlife and increase biodiversity with new & restored ponds, wetlands and hedgerows. Features of local cultural heritage have been restored to be handed to the next generation along with projects allowing the very young to learn about the world around them. Projects in schools developing outdoor learning spaces and community projects such as the Whixley heritage project pass down both natural and cultural heritage providing a sense of place and belonging. Access into outdoor space has been improved and a variety of interpretation boards seek to inform local residents and visitors alike about the area around them. Community learning has been provided by local history projects and talks have been held locally about hedgehog care and an important Roman skeleton discovered locally! The number of volunteer hours involved with the various projects has added significantly to the value of the work undertaken and the report would not be complete without this acknowledgement. In Marton Cum Grafton, volunteers planted 18,000 bulbs to enhance the entrance to the village, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust volunteers undertook the work to extend and repair pathways and The Conservation volunteers renovated an allotment to put it back into community use as a wildlife area. Volunteers have also been involved with clearing nuisance species at Great Ouseburn and in the woodland at Marton Cum Grafton and looking after the nature reserve at Staveley.

Along with the volunteers, we would like to thank the local community for undertaking all of these projects which have served to enhance the local area so well. We would also like to thank the members of the local community that supported the decision making process, attending panel meetings to provide local insight and enabling grant awards that have really maximized the benefit of this fund to the local area and that will provide a lasting legacy.

Our thanks also to North Yorkshire County Council for trusting us to manage this fund and for working with and supporting us so well to achieve its aims.

Two Ridings Community Foundation

