

PRESS RELEASE

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NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL - VICTORIA PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY PARKS FOR PEOPLE BID RESULTS

Newbury Town Council is disappointed to announce that its £1.7million bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund to restore and renovate Victoria Park has been unsuccessful.

Michelle Davies, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in the South East said, "Whilst we recognised that Victoria Park is an important local resource enjoyed by many people, the uncertainty over the proposed new building within the park made the project a lower priority for support."

"The people of Newbury deserve a park that celebrates its history, provides 21st Century facilities and sits proudly as the connecting centerpiece between upcoming major town centre developments. Whilst it is disappointing, we still believe we can resolve this issue and look forward to working closely with West Berkshire Council and other partners to establish the most appropriate next steps," said Cllr Gabrielle McGarvey, Chair of the Town Council's Victoria Park Working Group.

The Town Council had put together a thorough and compelling bid and the only stumbling block was continuing uncertainty relating to the size, scope and location of the proposed community pavilion and whether it would compliment the wider park improvements within the application.

"The bid contained proposals to highlight and conserve the heritage of the park alongside the provision of new play areas and skate park; enhancement of sports facilities; and general improvements to planting and infrastructure," said Granville Taylor, Services Manager of Newbury Town Council. "We congratulate Newcastle, Plymouth, Worcester and Newark who have been successful, wish them well with their own revitalisation projects.

"Our bid itself met all the priorities and desired outcomes required by the Parks for People programme and it is unfortunate that it has failed due to an issue outside of our own control, but we will do everything we can to help find the best way forward," continued Cllr McGarvey.



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For more details contact:

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