



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 8 April 2008

NEWBURY TOWN COUNCIL - VICTORIA PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY BID SUBMISSION

Newbury Town Council is pleased to announce that they submitted their Victoria Park “Parks for People” bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund on Monday 31 March 2008. The bid seeks support for rejuvenation and restoration across all areas of Victoria Park. If successful the bid will deliver the kind of environment and facilities that are expected in a large park adjacent to a town centre.

The total bid of £2.55 million covers the development and delivery of the proposal of which Newbury Town Council hope to secure 68% from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The timescales from now on are dictated by the Heritage Lottery. A decision by the Heritage Lottery panel is expected by the end of September 2008. If approved the project development phase will take approximately 12 months, followed by a further decision by the Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2010, to release funds for implementation. Once funds are released, a further 6 months will be required to allow for tendering and detailed planning. The final implementation phase will start in June 2010 with a targeted completion of April 2011.

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Councillor Gabrielle McGarvey, chairperson of the Victoria Park Working Group said “A lot of effort has been expended getting us this far and the group have had to deal with numerous complexities along the way. The timescales dictated by the lottery fund are frustrating as we would love to see the project moving more swiftly. However, this is a great opportunity for the whole of Newbury and something well worth waiting for”.

One of the complexities is the uncertainty still surrounding any building required in Victoria Park. The feasibility of the community pavilion proposed by the Wharf scheme is still being established and the Town Council is closely involved in this process. As yet there are no decisions on the size, scale or location of any potential pavilion and because of the uncertainty, no building funding has been sought from the Lottery Fund. When the feasibility study is complete, designs will be drawn up and the public will again have the chance to comment on the proposed building as part of that separate process.

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For more details contact:

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