

Countryside Proposals

Project 1

Employment of assistant ranger post from December 2009

Extra hands on the ground to carry out site maintenance and to run the weekly volunteer team at full capacity would free up the countryside ranger to work with the countryside manager to develop a project and funding bid to develop visitor and educational facilities at Yeovil Country Park.

Work would include providing volunteering opportunities with the Thursday volunteer team including laurel clearance in the valley gardens, re-planting of valley gardens with native species and general maintenance and health and safety work within Yeovil Country Park. This would include work to install a handrail where steep slopes have been exposed as a result of the laurel clearance.

This project goes hand in hand with the employment of an assistant ranger.

Option 1 Costs:

6 month contract extension (until June 2010)= £12,719 (salary + on-costs)

Materials for handrails £200

Option 2 Costs:

4 month contract extension (until April 2010)= £8,479 (salary + on-costs)

Materials for handrails £200

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Project 2

Tree Planting Scheme

As non-native laurel is removed in the country park it opens up areas of woodland where native species have not been able to produce seedlings to develop the woodland. Planting of native local tree stock will encourage the regeneration of the woodland, promoting biodiversity and improving habitats.

Option Costs:

Re-planting of 500 trees including tree guards and stakes= £2000

Project 3

Woodland play zone play schemes

Since the creation of a woodland play and story-telling zone as a result of breathing places funding we would like to run several free play schemes to optimise the use of this area. They would be led by an experienced play scheme leader. In 2009 we ran 5 playschemes including insect art and den building and these were all fully booked with 16 places on each session.

Option Costs:

6 x playschemes over 3 days in Easter holidays = £495

6 x playschemes over 3 days in Summer holidays = £495

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Project 4

Apprentice opportunities for 2010/11

A valuable position that is run in conjunction with Kingston Maurward College for 16-24 year olds. We offer a full time work-based placement with 12 weeks attending college one day per week to gain an NVQ level 2 in Environmental Conservation. Training and assessment is carried out by qualified rangers within the countryside team.

Option Costs:

£5044 for a weekly allowance of £97

Training and uniform costs of £400

= £5444 TOTAL

Octagon Proposals

Project 1

Arts and Crafts Market

- Increase Day Time Use of Venue
- Opportunities for local artists to sell their works and celebrate Somerset's culture and talent.
- Potentially a Long Term economically viable event for The Octagon
- Visitor Attraction – very close to Tourism and Heritage Centre!
- At present very few opportunities to buy locally made arts and crafts.
- New Audience for The Octagon.
- Initially Four 1-day Markets a year – tied in with Easter, May Bank Holiday, August Bank Holiday and Christmas to maximise on visitors to the area.
- Low costs to hold a stall to support local creative practitioners and reduce initial risk for traders. £20 per stall.
- Minimum of 25 stalls with option to use the Johnson Studio as Local Food Market.

Option Costs:

£6,000 (for purchase of trestle tables and marketing for first market)

Octagon Proposals

Project 2

Community Choirs

- An opportunity for people to come together and express themselves through music.
- Potentially an economically viable long-term project for The Octagon.
- A Community choir open to all with the opportunity to develop their singing and musical ability
- Increasing use of The Octagon and bringing in new users to the venue.

Looking to establish three choirs:

The Octagon Youth Choir – Aged 9 to 15

The Octagon Young Voices – Aged 16 to 30

The Octagon Choir Ages 30 and over.

The choirs will meet on a weekly basis (term-time) in the Johnson Studio and pay a fee of £3 a session. We will employ an experienced Musical Director who will be paid per class. The Youth Choir and Young Voices will be launched in September 2010 following The Octagon Summer School Programme. The Adult Choir can be launched separately. We would also seek funding from Youth Music Action Zones.

Option Costs:

£2,500 (room hire, sheet music and marketing for the first term for two choirs)

Octagon Proposals

Project 3

Enhanced visual arts exhibition space

The Octagon is home to a popular exhibition space which is located on the first floor in the 'West Wing'. Despite the space being compromised, as it is a shared area with the café bar and much of the exhibition area is located in the 'corridor' area, the space has become popular and well used. The current space restricts the size and the number of works we are able to show. There is a shortage of Visual Arts Exhibition Spaces in Somerset especially in Yeovil.

We would like to expand the exhibition space to take in more of the first floor area. This will:

- Provide greater opportunities for local artists and Yeovil College to exhibit work.
- Make the Café Bar a more 'interesting' space to visit.
- Potentially increase daytime visitors to the Café Bar / Gallery Exhibitions space.
- Potential for increased commission on sales of work.

Option Costs:

New picture rails/plinths (for sculpture) £1,300
Marketing costs for re launch of gallery space £200

= £1,500 TOTAL

Streetscene Proposals

Project 1

Extra cleaning of the town centre on weekends

1 extra person per day on Saturdays and Sundays for 16 weekends until the end of the current financial year

Option Costs:

£3,360

Streetscene Proposals

Project 2

Targeted deep cleansing of some Housing Areas

Suggested sites include;

Larkhill/ Westfield/ Stiby Road area
Roseberry Avenue/ Monmouth Road/ St Johns Road area
Forrest Hill/ Plantagenet Chase/ Lysander Road area
St Michaels/ Goldcroft/ Milford Area

Works to include litter clearance, extra sweeping both road and pavement areas which are hard to access, graffiti removal (if found), removal of any fly tipping discovered, cutting back of overgrowth and additional weed control on highway areas.

We could allocate amounts of time to a specific area - full or part week - pick n mix approach. We can also co-ordinate routine service delivery alongside this to give 'added value' to the initiatives.

Option Costs:

2 man team plus vehicle = £ 1,350 per week plus materials
4 weeks = £5400