

# Draft Gedling Heritage Strategy Consultation Feedback Summary Report

## Summary

This report gives an overview of the feedback from the public consultation that took place during February 2018 on the Draft Heritage Strategy. The consultation was promoted widely and a copy of the Draft Strategy was made available on the Council's website, alongside an on-line feedback form for comments. Questions posed by the on-line feedback form were:

- What are your views on the Strategic Direction?
- What are your views on the Themes?
- What are your views on the High Level Actions?
- What other High Level Actions would you like to see included in the Strategy's Action Plan?
- If you or your local group wish to lead on a heritage project what support do you need to make this happen?

Additional comments were also received via email and in letter form.

On 13 February 2018 a presentation on the Draft Strategy was made at the Gedling Heritage Forum, a network facilitated by the Council that includes representation from a broad range of local history and heritage societies. The feedback from this meeting has also been considered as the final Heritage Strategy has been compiled.

## Responders to the Consultation

A number of individuals and also representatives of local organisations and projects responded to the consultation. Table A provides a list of the local organisations and projects which offered comments.

| <b>Table A: Organisations Responding to Draft Heritage Strategy Consultation</b> |
|--|
| Calverton Folk Museum  |
| Calverton Preservation and History Society                                       |
| Gedling Borough's Heritage Brought Alive Project                                 |
| Nottinghamshire County Council Heritage Team                                     |
| Gedling Borough Council Planning Policy and Development Services                 |
| Attendees at Gedling Heritage Forum  |
| Nottinghamshire CAMRA  |
| Architectural Heritage Fund  |
| Historic England   |
| Friends of Gedling Station   |
| Friends of Gedling House Woods   |

Table B highlights organisations on the circulation list for the Gedling Heritage Forum as of 31 March 2018.

**Table B: Gedling Heritage Forum, March 2018**

|   |
|---|
| Nottinghamshire Thoroton Society                |
| Arnold Local History Group                      |
| Burton Joyce and Bulcote Local History Group    |
| Calverton Preservation and History Society      |
| Friends of Gedling Station                      |
| Friends of Arnot Hill Park                      |
| Friends of Bestwood Winding Engine              |
| Friends of Burton Road Park                     |
| Friends of Gedling Country Park                 |
| Friends of Gedling House Woods                  |
| Friends of Moor Pond Woods                      |
| Friends of the Hobbucks                         |
| Gedling Village Preservation Society            |
| Bestwood Country Park Friends Group             |
| Lambley Historical Society                      |
| Mapperley and Sherwood History Group            |
| Netherfield Wildlife Action Group               |
| Gedling Conservation Trust                      |
| Nottinghamshire CAMRA                           |
| Nottingham's Railways Remembered Facebook Group |
| Notts Wildlife Trust                            |
| Stoke Bardolph Heritage Association             |
| Woodborough Local History Group                 |

## **Consultation Feedback Summary**

The consultation feedback has been summarised under the following headings.

- Introduction, Executive Summary and Gedling's Heritage – an overview
- Benefits and Challenges
- Strategic Direction, Aims and Objectives and High-level Actions
- The Strategy as a whole
- Support needed by local groups

### **Introduction, Executive Summary and Gedling's Heritage – an overview**

- Dates referring to William Lee need amending.
- Reference to man-made landscape should be made.
- Correction on the highest point in Nottinghamshire
- Clarification regarding nationalisation and coal production at Calverton Colliery
- More recognition of the borough's archaeology as a key part of the heritage of the area.

- Refer to the four Registered Parks and Gardens in the Borough (Bestwood Pumping Station, Newstead Abbey, Papplewick Hall and Papplewick Pumping Station).
- There is only one SSSI at Linby Quarries; there are 4 formally designated Local Nature Reserves.
- Mention the Scheduled Monuments in the Borough, which are of national importance, usually archaeological remains, and are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Includes Bestwood Winding House and there are also several around Calverton.
- The retention of Locally Important Heritage Assets is encouraged through Policy LPD31 in the emerging Local Planning Document'.
- Refer to Papplewick conservation area appraisal and management plan consultation.
- Gedling House Wood and Gedling House Meadow are separate designations.
- Refer to the Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment.
- Update references to Sherwood Forest's consideration as a Special Protection Area for its breeding bird (nightjar and woodlark) interest and the information on Local Wildlife Sites.
- Mention Local Green Space – which is being identified through the Local Planning Document and emerging neighbourhood plans.
- Lack of reference to earlier historical references - archaeology. River Leen Valley.
- Friends of Greenwood Community Forest have a network of parks and volunteers across Nottinghamshire.
- The background information really highlights the rich and varied cultural heritage the Borough has to offer and we welcome the Council's commitment to the historic environment and heritage led regeneration.
- We recommend that the reference to the Heritage Interpretation Project (HIP), and how the Heritage Strategy and the HIP are two initiatives working in conjunction with each other with the potential to generate an Action Plan. We feel this would clarify at an early stage that the Strategy is intended as a high level document for other elements to link in to and, therefore, guide the expectations of the reader.

## **Benefits and Challenges**

- Clarification on birthplace and early childhood of Lord Byron.
- Include reference to Bestwood Dynamo House.
- Mention conservation area appraisals which describe the special architectural and historic interest of the area.
- Local Planning Document consultation has identified a real interest and concern for heritage in the Borough.
- The need to maximise new housing development against the backdrop of greater pressures for growing housing demands should not be at the expense of fully informed decision taking. This includes an understanding of site or

place history, its origins, patterns of settlement over time and how this knowledge may be drawn upon to enhance and improve the quality of place and the wider historic environment, creating sustainable developments that make significant contributions to towns and villages across the Borough. This approach is perhaps nowhere more apparent than at the development of the former Gedling Colliery site, the largest single development site in the Borough which will see the development of over 1,000 new homes, as well as providing the site for the adjacent Gedling Country Park.

## **Strategic Direction, Aims and Objectives and High-Level Actions**

- The Themes are commendable. However, it might make it easier at funding application stages if there was a closer alignment to the heritage industry standard's as set out by Historic England (such as the Virtuous circle concept), and the evidence base provided by (amongst other published data) the established Heritage Counts statistics.
- The real strength in terms of delivery of the borough wide benefits will stem from a successfully functioning and dynamic Heritage Forum and action plan.
- The development of a detailed 5 year action plan for the council, in partnership with the forum, is clearly imperative and worthy of top spot in any list!
- A proper assessment of all the options such as the Gedling Country Park Visitor Centre will ensure that the council's investment (and that of the volunteers you call on) is maximised to the benefit of the whole heritage sector around the borough.
- Refer to 'themes' rather than 'aims and objectives'.
- Refer to prioritisation being guided by the level of protection afforded to individual heritage assets.
- Gedling Heritage Way – include reference to the disused mineral railway line between Calverton and Bestwood.
- Lack of identity currently for Gedling heritage – could the Gedling Heritage Way offer this?
- Mineral Line trail between Netherfield and Gedling Country Park a great opportunity. What about the Calverton to Bestwood line too?
- It may be worth considering breaking the 'High Level Actions' section into current/short term activities, medium term activities and ongoing elements.
- How will you measure the impact of the aims?
- Needs backing up with action that allows a diverse range of local people to be involved. The plan needs to be environmentally sustainable as well.
- The Strategic Direction seems to set out a series of fair aims. It could include more about how you will conserve what assets you already have.
- A good step forward with plenty of potential on the condition that the community supports the strategy by doing their part. Some relevant parts of the community currently do not view the council as a partner but rather as the

opposition. This needs addressing, by both sides, before the strategy can meet its potential.

- Good starting point for a VERY ambitious project. However, the phrase "to be confirmed" appears with relation to timescales after many of the Strategies. Funding is clearly a huge issue for developing these assets & ambitions. "Funding options being explored".
- Who are the key partners?
- Charging entry to historic sites excludes potential visitors with lower income.
- The proposed Greenway from Victoria Rd Netherfield to Gedling Country Park is an inspiring project fully supported. It links all the protected open spaces and would be a green lung for local residents in Gedling Village, Netherfield, Carlton and Colwick. It is especially important when the additional housing is taken into account over the next 15 years - 1100 new houses at Gedling Colliery & Chase Farm & 900 at Teal Close Netherfield.
- The Friends of Gedling Station are proposing to form a Charitable Trust with a view to apply for Heritage Lottery.
- "Authentic" - How will the Council actively manage the preservation and enhancement of the boroughs heritage assets without qualified, informed Staff and people with a heritage background who understand the key roles, legislation and tools within the heritage and planning systems to achieve the aims set out?
- "Engaging" – very commendable goals and worth supporting but it needs to be made clear why this is being done. What is the aim, the purpose of this? How do we convince non-believers it is worth doing? What benefits will the area get from this? What are the economic, social, environmental benefits to sustain the Area going forward to make a difference?
- "Inspirational" - Agreed. Ties in to engaging above but how will this be achieved?
- Delighted that our Borough Council are now putting heritage in a more high profile position in its daily decision making.
- Consider DH Lawrence, Tolkien, Lord Byron links.
- Much greater partnership with the City Council to promote Newstead Abbey not only to overseas visitors but also within the UK and Nottinghamshire.
- The content of the 'themes' is commendable and covers key aspects of how GBC will approach its heritage work.
- These themes are the right way forward. The council cannot deal with the heritage by itself and essentially needs to engage with communities, property owners and other interested parties to ensure a good future for our heritage. The local population do need to have that sense of ownership, to ensure that our heritage is well preserved.
- Themes are excellent in theory. Realising them is not going to happen without substantial investment.
- The five themes provide a good structure to the approach going forward.
- I can appreciate why the proposed location for the project is Gedling Country Park for financial reasons and availability of accommodation, but there is a danger that this feels disconnected to the villages/other parts of the borough that the information relates to - Papplewick, Newstead Village and Abbey and Linby for example are not exactly a stone's throw away for anyone to be

inspired by a leaflet at the country park to connect immediately with the places featured in displays.

- Perhaps a greater focus on digitalisation of information to make it more widely available on the internet would help address this. Additionally, interactive displays to bring 'remoter' areas to life and to encourage visiting along with public transport information.
- Whilst the focus on linking Netherfield with the Country park via the Heritage as a focus on one of the more deprived communities is understandable, there is a risk that the opportunity to extend this to other deprived areas is missed - such as Bestwood Village and the housing estate within the Borough around Bestwood Country Park (and its links with Charles II).
- There is a danger in concentrating on high profile parts of heritage and ignoring the vernacular and other important parts of rural heritage and railway history for example.
- The high level actions are a good starting point for future action - seeing more commitment to completion would be useful.
- They will create a good foundation for the future.
- OK as a beginning, need to be reviewed over time, completion dates decided.
- A good starting point. 'Attract to disperse' seems a valid approach with regard to informing people at the Hub in Gedling Country Park. Hopefully, by advertising the main event at the other sites around the Borough: visitors will come to the Hub?
- Supportive of the High Level Actions particularly the Gedling Heritage Way. It is inspirational & achievable.
- Deliver Gedling Heritage Interpretation project - Support this very important project which will be a flagship project. How will this be delivered and who by?
- Support delivery of the Local plan – once adopted how will the policies be implemented and will there be qualified informed staff in heritage to ensure the Boroughs assets are protected and enhanced through informed conservation? What role does the national planning policy Framework take in decision taking? How will key partners such as Historic England and Nottinghamshire Council Environment play a part?
- The Role of the Historic Environment Record is crucial to inform decision taking through understanding.
- The Buildings At risk survey has just been completed in partnership with NCC and actions are being taken already to address some of the key problems.
- The high level actions are suitable and do not present any issues. The last, however, needs to be expanded to include securing funding for the maintenance and development of the Borough's heritage.
- The use of Gedling Country Park as the physical location for heritage interpretation is fine but the existing cafeteria building seems very limited in terms of space. The proposal to achieve a dedicated physical facility is therefore fully supported. It is a real concern that, despite efforts that have been made so far, little has been achieved to develop the Newstead Abbey site in to a 'must visit' location.
- A focus on Gedling Borough in literature to reach a much wider interest group into the area.
- Greater emphasis on local railway history. Enforce legal responsibilities for owners of listed buildings!

- Partnership working to highlight community resources available.
- A focus on how heritage can benefit the visitor economy and feeding this heritage strategy into a wider approach towards the tourism sector. Place shaping and place marketing would help to establish an identity and cohesion to the area which it currently lacks.
- Include support for the smaller heritage assets that interface with the public, such as the small museums at Calverton, Burton Joyce and Linby (Weighbridge). Tourists want places to visit and currently these locations are little known and rarely open.
- More involvement of Parish councils.
- Transport is clearly an issue. The disparate sites around a large area are not easily accessible by Public transport. Most would currently visit these sites by car.
- Gedling Country Park itself is quite a difficult journey by Public Transport from other areas of the Borough. I live 4 miles away in Warren Hill. What about Arnot Hill Park as a heritage hub?
- Link the old mineral line with the former Mapperley, Woodthorpe line to Arnot Hill Park.
- The conservation of the historic environment and enhancement of the heritage is a statutory requirement under the Planning (Listed buildings and Conservation areas) Act 1990. In particular, conservation areas are required to be preserved and enhanced and plans made.
- A tourism strategy could link in with a heritage strategy and promote economic development for the area. Newstead Abbey should have its own project to make the most of this World class site, promote and draw visitors to the area. This would have to be done in partnership with Nottingham City Council.
- Now that a full Conservation Area character appraisal and management plan has been adopted for Woodborough it is vital that this is robustly supported in day to day decision making. It is important that appropriate training and support is given to staff to maintain high levels of knowledge and understanding.

## **The Strategy as a whole**

- NCC Built Heritage section very much welcomes and supports the preparation and adoption of a Heritage Strategy.
- Recognise the Council's role in the delivery of statutory functions related to the borough's heritage - the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 126.
- Taking the plan through committee and submitting it as part of the council's 'Plan Making Process' is a strong indication of your commitment to the borough's heritage, and is commendable.
- If GBC are happy to finance heritage in the borough going forward, then activities focussed on the existing sites and facilities are more likely to achieve the targets set out in the themes of the strategy. A full time role is an effective way of producing the outcomes you desire and successfully attracting new funding to deliver them.

- ‘Signposting’ for the borough’s heritage attractions, is ultimately a marketing exercise (that does not require a new building). The development of trails and promotion of rights of way network is a great and cost effective project/s and brings many other benefits, such as supporting community health and well-being etc.
- Gedling Station project has generated considerable support and interest and should feature as a sensible goal in line with the Themes of the strategy. Conserving railway heritage of this type is worthwhile, generates high levels of interest from a wide scope of the community and has well established heritage outcomes
- Calverton Folk Museum is not on the list of heritage groups (in appendix A) and I am worried that it needs support urgently. There is clearly an important resource there, in the middle of Calverton, with very strong links to the borough’s frame-work knitting heritage. I suspect that if GBC were to approach the Ruddington Framework knitting museum that they would be willing to provide advice and maybe work collaboratively.
- Include Calverton Preservation and History Society <http://nlha.org.uk/society-details/?pdb=12>
- Should reference the monetary value of heritage to the Borough; economic development and volunteer hours - asking groups for their visitor numbers. English heritage considers the value of heritage. Working with neighbours and the city council.
- Gedling is well-placed to build relationships with the British Geological Survey, YAT (Trent& Peak Archaeology) and the English Place Name Society.
- Identify key heritage themes, identify key outputs, identify key external public / private / voluntary bodies which hold relevant data and identify key opportunities for citizen involvement.
- The use of a Council website page, layering this type of information for sites across the Borough ought to be feasible and would allow the citizen to overlay different layers of information according to their interest.
- It is really positive that Gedling BC is demonstrating its commitment to the historic environment and its heritage. I hope you might have an opportunity to look at our [website](#) (The Architectural Heritage Fund) and if there is any way we can support not-for-private-profit organisations which are rescuing a historic building or taking on an asset, please do get in touch.

### **Support needed by local groups**

- Time and ability to network effectively with appropriate individuals/groups. Some initial co-ordination of key aims/work necessary to achieve desired outcomes. Accommodation for meetings/access to appropriate technology.
- Support for heritage lottery bids and plans for community development of facilities.
- Support to volunteer effectively, being given advice on governance, finance, funding, project management, safeguarding, building conservation, heritage tourism and promotion. They should be supported on being clear on what leading on a heritage project involves. No volunteer should be out of pocket and made aware of any risk from any volunteering done or action taken. From

an NCC perspective, support is already given to heritage groups in this way. Effective partnership working between GBC and NCC would bolster this support.

- When applying for large amounts of funding it is difficult for local groups to take on the liability or even manage such projects. Hence a partnership approach would be better.
- Not so much lead but be involved with, particularly historic periods from early times/domestic industries e.g. hosiery.
- Publicity and printing costs.
- Expertise, funding and partnership support.