

## **Introduction**

A robust and effective training plan is essential for the long-term success of the Long Eaton Conservation Areas Townscape Heritage Initiative.

A budget of £48,000 has been allocated for training and education for the five year project. It is envisaged that this funding will be spent on a range of activities which will help elected members, members of the Steering Group, Council Officers, building owners and the community benefit from the implementation of the THI.

## **Councillor, Steering Group and Officer Training**

It is essential that an audit of skills and knowledge is undertaken by the THI Project Officer to ascertain the type and amount of training required before the THI begins. Once the audit is complete a comprehensive training schedule can be devised. However, it is assumed that members of the Steering Group, which is made up of a cross-section of the local community, will have limited knowledge of managing a heritage project.

Initially a heritage library will be set up containing the following:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Guidance on the management of conservation areas (English Heritage, 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning
- Draft East Midlands Regional Plan
- Erewash Borough Local Plan, Adopted July 2005
- Long Eaton Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal
- Long Eaton Lace Factories Conservation Area Appraisal
- Erewash Borough Statement of Community Involvement
- Stage 1 THI submission to the HLF
- Stage 2 THI submission to the HLF
- Erewash Community Strategy
- Erewash Draft Corporate Strategy
- Erewash Economic Regeneration Strategy
- Long Eaton Masterplan
- Shopfront Supplementary Planning Document
- Design Supplementary Planning Document
- Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document
- Schedule of Listed Buildings
- Plans showing the conservation area boundaries
- Long Eaton Town Centre Conservation Area Leaflet

Ideally this information will be stored on a CD and a copy given to all interested parties. This list is not exhaustive and will be regularly updated by the THI Project Officer.

Over the lifespan of the THI it is assumed that new Councillors may be elected, membership of the Steering Group may change and new Officers will be appointed. If any of these events occur, an induction course outlining the aims and objectives of the THI will be run.

Training will be delivered primarily by the THI Project Officer and the Borough Council's Conservation and Design Officer. However, there may be instances where more detailed or specialist knowledge is required and the services of local heritage experts or the HLF may be called upon.

A series of workshops will also be set up at the start of the project to educate Councillors and members of the Steering Group on the requirements and processes involved in the THI.

### **Community Education**

The involvement of local children in history, geography and drama projects is a priority and will be achieved through promoting and improving links with local schools and the organisation of events aimed at whole family inclusion in order to reach members of the community within all age groups. Erewash Borough Council's Museum Service has an excellent track record with this method of community engagement and it is envisaged that all existing skills and experience within this department will assist the THI Project Officer to coordinate events within the area.

The THI Project Officer will also encourage the use of 'Conserving the Built Environment, Key Stage 2 Geography Module' produced by the IHBC and Nottinghamshire County Council with the THI area as the primary study area.

It is also proposed to undertake themed events as part of the THI which will include both children and their parents or guardians.

Presentations will also be given to local interest groups, Community Forums and local schools. The aim of these presentations will be to give a brief overview of the THI and the history of Long Eaton.

The THI will also be promoted at a number of annual events including the Chestnut Fair, Long Eaton Carnival, the Continental Market and the Steam Fair.

A bi-monthly THI Information Leaflet will be produced by the THI Project Officer and printed in-house by the Borough Council's Reprographics Section. The leaflet will be sent to every property within the THI Boundary, building owners and be made freely available to the public at local libraries, the Town Hall, Shopmobility and to download from the THI webpage.

During the THI a series of exhibitions will be held. These exhibitions will serve a dual purpose. They will either provide information on the history of Long Eaton, the progress of the THI or be used as part of the proposed public consultation exercises. Exhibitions will also be held at the end of the THI to inform the public of the scheme's achievements. All of the exhibitions will be held at either the Town Hall or the Long Eaton Library.

The THI Project Officer will utilise the Public Notice Boards on the Market Place and at the Town Hall to publicise the THI. Over the lifespan of the THI new, permanent information boards will be situated at three strategic locations in the THI area.

Through the THI, Conservation Design students of Derby University, will be invited to undertake their end of year project on the Long Eaton Lace Factory Conservation Area. The exercise will allow the students to theoretically determine the future of the area and learn about the repair, adaptation and enhancement of historic places and understand sensitive and intelligent design. They will also explore the close relationship between conservation and regeneration and look at the contribution conservation makes to sustaining the historical and economic environment. It is hoped that this module will continue to run following the end of the THI.

The continued maintenance of the buildings, and especially those that receive grant funding, is of paramount importance for the long-term success of the THI. With this in mind, a series of information leaflets will be produced by the THI Project Officer covering basic building repair and maintenance. These leaflets will be included in the grant application pack and made available on the THI webpage. Through the monitoring of Local Searches it is possible to determine when a building changes ownership. If this happens, or if a new tenant moves into a building, an information pack will be dispatched.

## **Resources**

It is assumed that the majority of the training will use Council Officers including the THI Project Officer, the Conservation Officer and staff from the Erewash Museum.

Primarily, workshops and training events will be undertaken in the Council Offices, schools, community centres and libraries. Outdoor events will principally be held on the Market Place as well as West Park, school playing fields and the curtilage of the lace factories. All outdoor events will only take place once a risk assessment has been undertaken.

## **Evaluation and Monitoring**

The progress of the education and training requirements of the THI will be constantly monitored and its success evaluated throughout the lifespan of the project.

Each year the THI Project Officer will report on:

- The number of internal training days and the number of people attending. It is envisaged that at least two training days will be held per year throughout the lifespan of the THI.
- The number of public information days including days where the public can participate. It is envisaged that at least four public information days will be held per year throughout the lifespan of the THI where at least 200 people will attend.
- The number of presentations given to local interest groups, Community Forums and local schools. It is hoped to give four presentations per year during the lifespan of the THI
- The number of information packs distributed. It is hoped to distribute 300 information packs per year during the lifespan of the THI.