

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL  
BORO BECKS PROJECT – ACTION PLAN**

5<sup>th</sup> November 2013

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p><b>1. That relevant external grant funding sources are explored with a view to continuing the Boro Becks Project, albeit on a smaller scale if necessary. Should funding be forthcoming, an assessment will need to be made as to how the project can be supported by the Council - for example by ensuring that any associated future maintenance requirements are sustainable, or continuing to provide assistance in kind.</b></p>	<p>Relevant grant funding options will be explored using the Grantfinder system operational within Middlesbrough Council. Potential partnership funding and sources of becks activity support will be sought through existing organisational networks such as the Middlesbrough Becks Steering Group, Local Nature Partnership, Parks and Greenspace Community Forum and Health Forums. Future maintenance requirements will be discussed with relevant parties to ensure sustainability.</p>	Liz Small	Nil apart from officer time	By April 2014
<p><b>2. That the process of recruiting Volunteer Becks Rangers and establishing Friends Groups is continued and taken forward as a sustainable approach to continuing the work of the Boro Becks Project. Consideration should also be given to how best the use of volunteers and friends groups can be supported and promoted within existing resource levels - such as</b></p>	<p>The development of a sustainable volunteers group is a key legacy of the Boro Becks project when that project ends in December 2013. This Becks volunteer group will be invited to the Parks and Green spaces Community Forum to benefit from the mutual support of this group and potential training activities. Members from the Becks volunteers have already been invited to previous forum meetings.</p>	Liz Small	Nil apart from officer time and support from environmental services contact centre	Independent group established by January 2014

<p><b>by promoting the sharing of information, expertise and resources between all friends groups and ensuring that any necessary training is provided. In order to ensure a sustainable way forward, any additional funding that is secured should not be directed towards revenue costs/staffing but should be used to promote the increased use of volunteers.</b></p>	<p>Links to the Council's volunteer network have been made already and volunteers are recruited using the Council's volunteer policy which includes Health and Safety issues. Future recruits will be sourced via the Council's website volunteering section. The Council's environmental services support the work of the volunteers that is additional to the regular Area Care maintenance. The Area Care managers will provide support to the volunteers via their contact centre coordinating issues such as permission to be on site and rubbish removal. The volunteers will work to Management Plans as agreed by Area Care.</p>			
<p><b>3. That any future improvement works should include all of Middlesbrough's becks and not only those currently included in the Boro Becks Project.</b></p>	<p>The purpose of the Middlesbrough Becks Steering group is to coordinate improvement works to all of Middlesbrough Becks. This group will continue to seek ways to improve all of Middlesbrough's becks. Improvement of all Middlesbrough Becks will continue to be an action in the Council's green spaces / green infrastructure policies.</p>	<p>Liz Small</p>	<p>Nil apart from officer time</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>4. That relevant schools are contacted and:</b></p> <p><b>a) Informed of the educational value of becks in their area,</b></p>	<p>The Boro Becks team will contact relevant schools with the information and suggestions in action 4. Links will be placed on the Middlesbrough Council website under Boro Becks to</p>	<p>Liz Small</p>	<p>Nil apart from officer time</p>	<p>December 2013</p>

<p><b>including education programmes undertaken by the Boro Becks Project to date.</b></p> <p><b>b) Invited to assist, on an educational basis, with the maintenance of areas around becks.</b></p> <p><b>c) Invited to make a financial contribution to future educational programmes in relation to Middlesbrough's becks.</b></p>	<p>signpost educationists to sources of educational materials. The schools have been given advice on resources and information by the team. In addition the Boro Becks achievements will be detailed on the Council website. The schools that the team worked with during the project are being consulted during the final evaluation of the project to assess the benefits of this work and asked whether they would pay for the service.</p>			
--	--	--	--	--