

## **Summary of work carried out by Historic Environment Team 2014/15**

### **1.0 Restoration and Refurbishment of Historic Buildings and Monuments**

- 1.1 Since April 2014 Officers have assessed approximately 200 development control applications. Examples of significant schemes are as follows:
- Construction of a new public square in the heart of the docks adj. to Llanthony Rd.
  - Major housing development for up to 450 dwellings, land south of Winneycroft Farm.
  - Residential development at Newark Farm, Hempsted
  - Works to Nos. 57, 125 and 150-152 Southgate St. in connection with the Southgate St THI grant scheme.
- 1.2 Works funded from the City Council's monuments budget:
- A new pump for King's Bastion.
  - A condition survey for St Oswald's Priory which has resulted in the planned removal of woody vegetation from the monument.
  - Removal of copper sulphate staining from the cenotaph at the City War Memorial before Remembrance Day.
  - Repair & re-painting of the plinth to the Aircraft Workers Statue, Northgate St.
  - Removal of graffiti from Nelson Foster Memorial.
- 1.3 Officers working in partnership with the Asset Management team have been involved in advising upon the following projects: Refurbishments of the City and Folk Museums as part of the HLF bid and stone repairs and cleaning at St Michael's Tower which took place over the summer of 2014.

### **2.0 Cladding Schemes**

- 2.1 Planning applications have been submitted for two cladding projects – Kings Walk and Eastgate Shopping Centre Link Bridge. These will be presented to Planning Committee on the 7th April. Both schemes will remove negative buildings from the City Centre Conservation Area and improve the character of Eastgate Street.

### **3.0 Targeted Grants Scheme**

- 3.1 The City Centre Scheme was launched in July 2013, to date around 40 expressions of interest have been received. A total of ten grants have been formally offered and accepted totalling £43,973.10, of which £34,506.30 has been paid out for completed work. There is £156,026.90 remaining in the budget and as a result the primary projects for targeted grants are as follows:
- a) 111 Westgate Street
  - b) 24 Westgate Street
  - c) 26 Westgate Street

- d) 31 Westgate Street
- e) 39 Westgate Street
- f) 41 Westgate Street

- 3.2 Priorities for 2015 are to continue to monitor, promote, develop and advise on the appropriate reuse and regeneration schemes for targeted grants.

#### **4.0 Interpretation Boards**

- 4.1 The two boards have been completed for Kimbrose Triangle and The Spa and are awaiting installation by contractors.

#### **5.0 Heritage Trails App**

- 5.1 This work has now been completed.

#### **6.0 Replacement of the Westgate Street Mosaics**

- 6.1 This work has now been completed.

#### **7.0 Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd**

- 7.1 An historic buildings plaque has been designed, manufactured and installed at the former Mercer's Hall, now a Masonic Lodge in Cross Keys Lane. A further plaque to George Whitefield is in the final stages of production.

#### **8.0 City Plan**

- 8.1 Officers have been working with colleagues from the Planning Policy Service regarding the heritage aspects of the future City Plan. In particular officers are seeking to address the evidence base requirements previously outlined by English Heritage.

#### **9.0 Heritage Lottery Funded Projects**

- 9.1 Officers within the service advise on heritage matters and are active members of the partnership and steering groups for the following heritage lottery projects: Project Pilgrim, Llanthony Priory and Discover Decrypt, which both have stage 2 development funding and are presently developing schemes which will enhance and reuse significant designated heritage assets within the City. Officers are also providing advice and assistance with the development of stage 1 bids for St Nicholas Church, Gloucester Waterways Museum and Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. Officers are continuing with liaison between all HLF schemes in the city through the HLF Forum.

## **10.0 Southgate Street Townscape Heritage Initiative**

- 10.1 Following the departure of the Townscape Heritage Initiative Officer, a new individual was appointed and took up the post at the beginning of February. A handover period took place to ensure a smooth transition.
- 10.2 The first THI Grant was awarded in November 2014 for works to 57 Southgate Street. The works involve repairs to the roof and joinery, reinstatement of architectural detail (windows and rainwater goods), plus the refurbishment of vacant upper floor space to create new accommodation above the shop. Work commenced on site in January 2015.
- 10.3 An application for funding towards external repairs and re-instatement works at 150-152 Southgate St has been received and contracts are due to be signed shortly. Work is likely to start on site in May.
- 10.4 Two other projects are developing, with agents appointed and plans drawn up. These are likely to be submitted in March / April and starting on site in May / June. Other interested applicants are working up proposals for consideration which should be developed into applications in the coming months.
- 10.5 A heritage training course is being developed in parallel to the proposed restoration of the wall on the Greyfriars boundary of St Mary de Crypt. This will be managed by experts in the field of stone restoration and heritage education, in partnership with Gloucestershire College. The project starts at the end of March, with a week of training at Woodchester Mansion, followed by two weeks on site. It is proposed that this will be repeated with a new intake of students later in the year.
- 10.6 A planning application has been submitted for approval to re-instate railings on the boundary wall with Greyfriars, and to install new railings along the boundary towards Marylone, to include gates which it is proposed be locked at dusk and opened at dawn. St Mary De Crypt will also be able to close off the churchyard for schools workshops and other events as part of their developing project proposals. The former section of railings, to be placed upon the existing walls, will be funded through the THI public realm budget. Funding is still required for the second section at the back of the churchyard, and the gate into Marylone. Indicative costs for the railings are being sought, but a full tender process will be required for the contract nearer the time of installation.
- 10.7 Other public realm improvements are likely to be developed later on within the project timetable to coincide with the new development at the junction with Trier Way.
- 10.8 Work has also taken place with a local primary school in helping children gain a better understanding of the history of Gloucester. This has included introductory lessons and activities covering the Roman, Anglo Saxon and Victorian periods of growth in the city. Successful school visits around Gloucester Docks have also taken place, with our THI partners in the Civic Trust. Further work to develop schools resources relating to historic buildings will be undertaken in the coming year.

## **11.0 Archaeology**

- 11.1 Archaeological recommendations have been made with regard to 45 planning applications in the City. Two significant archaeological excavations were monitored last year as well as approximately 20 archaeological evaluations and 8 watching briefs.
- 11.2 From the 1st of April the Gloucester City Historic Environment Record (HER - a database of all known archaeological sites in the District) will be managed as part of a new joint service with the County Council. The City Archaeologist will still be responsible for maintaining and updating records for the District – but these will be stored on the wider County-wide database. The aim is to improve the quality and accessibility of the data (some of which will be publicly available on-line). English Heritage have provided funding for a temporary HER assistant post for 16 months to transfer the data into the new joint system. This post is currently being advertised.
- 11.3 Work on an English Heritage funded project to sort and deposit old archaeological archives from the former City Excavation Unit with the Museum and Art gallery is nearly completed. The project was needed to ensure the long term protection of important documents and remains. Work should be complete before the end of April 2015. Whilst the main aim has been to protect and conserve these archives – we have also been able to save a considerable amount of storage space at the museum which is very helpful.
- 11.4 Further community archaeology events will be taking place as part of the ‘all Paths Lead to the Hill’ Project at Robinswood Hill this year with three volunteer excavations taking place over the course of spring and summer.
- 11.5 Throughout the past 12 months the City Archaeologist has given six public talks to various local societies.
- 11.6 Further work on King’s Walk Bastion is planning in the near future. It is hoped to undertake repairs to the doorway and to improve the ventilation. Maintenance work at St. Oswald’s Priory is due to take place in the next two months.

## **12.0 Architectural Lighting**

- 12.1 The flood-lighting of the Grade II Listed Constitution House, just off Brunswick Road, was completed in October 2014. The project involved two 150W low-energy LED lights to illuminate the main façade of the building.
- 12.2 The Grade II Listed Eastgate Portico was lit during February 2015, using a range of Lumenpulse LED lights. The notable features of the structure were all illuminated, including the bell tower, statues, clock face and portico arches.
- 12.3 The detailed design of a lighting scheme for the Grade I Listed St. Nicholas Church on Westgate Street has developed through the course of the year and a final design has been produced. This design will be the subject of a consultation exercise with

English Heritage and other agencies, with a listed building consent application to follow.

- 12.4 The re-lighting scheme for the Grade II\* St. Mary's Church and School Room Southgate Street elevation is on course to be installed in May. The original uplighters suffered from numerous water ingress issues and product failures.
- 12.5 The existing Guildhall façade lighting is due to be replaced with low energy LED types, which will replicate the existing effect but with much lower energy use, longer life and lower on-going maintenance issues.