Staple Hill's Page Park receives National Lottery



Page Park's clock tower is a symbol for Staple Hill

The grant forms a large part of the total project cost of £2,182,114 for Page Park.

Funded through the Parks for People programme, the investment will be used to regenerate the park with an aim to increase community use. The park is one of the most important green spaces in the area and we want to make the park and its heritage accessible to everyone.

The funding will be used to improve access and signage around the park and will provide a new combined café and community building to act as a hub for the park and local community. There will also be improvements to the play equipment, restoration of walls, gates and railings and other heritage features, resurfacing of paths around the park, additional planting and the refurbishment of the clock tower's clock mechanism and bell. In addition a three year programme of activities will engage people from across the Staple Hill community in learning about and celebrating the park heritage.

Communities Chair Cllr Heather Goddard said: "We're delighted that HLF and BIG have given us this considerable support to revitalise Page Park. The park is the most important green space in Staple Hill and has been enjoyed by generations of local people since it was given to the public in 1910. As well as improving the park and its facilities, we will also be providing additional activities and events so more people can enjoy the space."

Today's news comes as part of a £32million funding announcement for parks and cemeteries across the UK. Nerys Watts, Head of HLF South West, said on behalf of HLF and BIG: "Our parks are where we play some of our first games, where we make some of our first discoveries and where we spend some of our best times with family and friends. However we use them, parks are an important part of life, which is why we're delighted to be investing National Lottery players' money in parks from Bristol to Helensburgh to carry out vital restoration and create some wonderful opportunities for communities and wildlife."

Page Park was once the gardens of Hill House Estate, a large house originally belonging to colliery owner and politician Handel Cossham. It later became the home of Alderman Arthur William Page, one of Staple Hill's greatest benefactors, who in 1910 gave up some of his garden to create the park for the local community. The park has an Edwardian design and character and is recognised by its clock tower building which has become a symbol for Staple Hill. The local community help look after and care for the park through the Friends of Page Park.

The Page Park clock tower building restoration project also recently received a £50,000 funding boost thanks to a grant from SITA Trust, which was made possible through the Landfill Communities Fund. This will enable major structural repairs to the clock tower, along with painting and decoration, and improvements to the park's plants and paving around the building.

The improvement work is expected to begin in Spring 2016.

Notes to editors

To date, more than £776 million of money raised by National Lottery players has been invested in parks since 1996.

Further information

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Hirst Park is where the three Ashington youngsters - Bobby and Jack Charlton and Jackie Milburn - began their journey to footballing legend

It’s coming home! Football returns to Charlton brothers’ childhood park