Ed Miliband witnesses Doncaster park's return to



Ed Miliband walking through Bentley Park

Last week, Ed Miliband visited Bentley Park in his constituency of Doncaster North, to see how a £2.5million HLF grant has revived this community hub.

History

The park was built in the centre of Bentley , South Yorkshire in 1923 to be used as a Miners' Welfare Recreation Ground. It was originally rich in facilities, and renowned for its ornamental bedding, quickly becoming the heart of the community. Sadly during the 1980s and 1990s, the historical features within the park fell into disrepair, and there was an increase in vandalism.

Investment

However, following a successful bid from Doncaster Council in 2011, HLF awarded £2.5million to the restoration the park and its pavilion.

The investment allowed for a complete renovation for the pavilion, preserving its historical importance. The project has also restored the horticultural quality of the park's ornamental gardens, inspired by the original designs. It also resulted in new seating areas through the park, new play areas, better lighting, and a bandstand for outdoor events.

Success

The revamp has been a great success, making the park very popular locally and bringing it back to the heart of the local community where it has been situated for almost 100 years. Thousands of visitors attended last year's re-established Bentley Fireworks display, and the Bentley Bonanza. Over 200 children and young people now attend the weekly Gymnastics and Trampoline club in the park.

Ed Miliband was joined on his visit by the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones, and by Fiona Spiers, Head of HLF Yorkshire and Humber. He greatly enjoyed his tour of the Bentley Park, saying that the investment, which was made possible thanks to National Lottery players, has bought Bentley Park and its pavilion back to its former glory.