



Press Release – January 2017

SKELTON HERITAGE PROJECT STARTS A BIG YEAR OF ACTION

As the New Year begins, 2017 will see big changes coming to Skelton High Street. This work has been made possible by National Lottery players with a £952,200 grant from HLF

Led by Skelton Villages Civic Pride and aided by our Partners Redcar & Cleveland Council, Tees Valley Rural Community Council and of course the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Skelton Townscape Heritage Project will enter its first year of major works in the village.

Councillor Dale Quigley, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth on Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, said: *“These are exciting plans for what is an excellent project led by our friends at Skelton Villages Civic Pride. I’m sure these improvements will have a strong, positive impact for the whole town.”*

Just prior to last Christmas, the Project completed the appointment of its professional design team. Landscape Design Architects Southern Green and Architects Harris Irwin, who worked on the development ideas for the Project in 2015 have re-joined the Team to help with Project delivery. They are joined by Identity Consult, a Sunderland-based firm of cost consultants with considerable experience in the sort of work to be done in Skelton.

Southern Green have now developed detailed proposals for the High Street, including paving, planting and new street furniture. New landscaping schemes are proposed for sites at either end of the High Street, including one that will incorporate a mosaic to commemorate Skelton’s history. The landscaping at the foot of The Hills will involve the removal of the BT Payphone box. Any comments on this aspect of the proposals can be made at the Project Office, 97, High Street, where all of the plans for the High Street can be viewed.

These proposals will be going out to Tender in February. Work is planned to start in May 2017 with completion set for the end of July 2017.

The first phase of Shopfront improvements will be carried out later this year. Internal surveys of all the first phase shops will be carried out shortly to assist in preparing planning applications. The work will be tendered in early summer and the building work started in late summer 2017.

Part of the Project involves the investigation of the site of a medieval settlement on the edge of Skelton. Last Autumn, we carried out a geophysical survey of the site.



A workshop and public event to describe the findings will be held in March. The next stage will be an earthworks survey to be carried out in late spring this year. Local people will be encouraged to volunteer to get involved with the archaeological investigations.

All of the details of the Project can be found on the new Website at <https://skeltontownscapeheritage.org.uk/>

12th January 2017

Note for Editors

About the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #HLFsupported

Attached illustrations:

Public Realm Masterplan

Artist's impression of Mosaic Site

Illustrative photo of the type of scheme to be undertaken at the bottom of The Hills

Photo of Geophysical Survey