



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Skelton Townscape Heritage Project Forges ahead on all fronts**

#### **1. Skelton goes for gold in Great British High Street competition**

Skelton is in the running to win a cash prize as part of a nationwide search for the Britain's best high street.

Skelton has applied for the "Small Market Town" Great British High Street award, in recognition of the town team's efforts to revitalise the area. This includes the successful proposals on regenerating the high street which form part of the Skelton Townscape Heritage Project supported by a grant of £952,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

If successful, Skelton will win a share of the cash prize pot, and dedicated support and mentoring from industry experts which could range from one to one coaching to advice on digital marketing.

The competition is a great way of sharing successful ideas to regenerate high streets and make them vibrant places to shop and socialise.

Skelton-in-Cleveland High Street has maintained a mix of commercial and residential occupation which results in a continuous footfall of local people in addition to those visiting to shop. We are very proud that our High Street businesses have received the patronage and support of the local community resulting in every shop premise being occupied with an operational business. This is quite remarkable when compared with other villages and small town centres in this area when considering the economic environment in which they operate.

Sue Jeffrey, Leader of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, said:

*"The work they propose if they win the Great British High Street Competition would complement the already approved work on*



*improving and uplifting the shop fronts and shop buildings of the High Street by means of new paving, street furniture, sensitive interpretation boards and signage and new tree planting to maximise the tree cover already there. Some of the works proposed will also give valuable training opportunities for local young people as well as being a spur for community design in other areas.*

*"I wholeheartedly endorse this entry from Skelton Townscape Heritage Group, which has been one of the most successful community led organisations in our Borough, winning approval for conservation work on the Skelton historic High Street from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other agencies.*

*I hope that this entry gains approval"*

There are seven separate categories in recognition of the diversity of Britain's high streets: City Centre; London; Town Centre; Market Town; Coastal Community; Village and parade of shops. The competition is being promoted by central government's Department of Communities and Local Government. Shortlisting and Judging will take place from now until November with winners announced in time for Christmas.

The public in Skelton can support our nomination at [www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk](http://www.thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk) and if shortlisted will be able to vote for Skelton as their favourite high street.

## **2. Boroughgate Archaeology**

We believe one of the Country's most significant unexplored medieval villages may be located on the outskirts of Skelton. The site, which is known in archaeological circles as Boroughgate, is situated between the Guisborough Road and Back Lane, on the western edge of Skelton. As part of the Townscape Heritage Project we will carry out a full-scale archaeological investigation of Boroughgate over the next three years.

A number of regional archaeological bodies have been invited to send in bids to undertake the work. We have looked at these bids and we will shortly announce the winner. We expect local excitement to be raised when work



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starts during October this year on the first stage, which will be a geophysical survey

During the following two years, our chosen archaeologist will carry out an earthworks survey in 2017 and follow this up with full excavations in 2018. Both the earthworks survey and excavations will provide opportunities to involve and train local volunteers to help.

This local volunteer involvement is an essential part of our Activities programme supporting the Townscape Heritage Project.

***Ends***



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