

## BOSTON BIG LOCAL

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| <b>Project:</b>  |   | Public Realm improvements  |  |
| <b>Lead delivery partner:</b>  |   | Boston Borough Council/Boston in Bloom   |  |
| <b>Theme:</b>  | Creating a more attractive environment  | <b>Priority:</b>   | 2  |
| <b>Activity:</b>   | Enhancement of town centre horticultural displays and improvement of the waterway environment through high quality public realm interventions |  |  |
| <p>Project outcomes (from SLA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 high quality public realm improvements</li> <li>• Improved habitat for wildlife, particularly pollinating insects</li> <li>• Improvement in civic pride through the celebration of Boston's history and community engagement</li> <li>• Broadening of the skills and ambition of local artists through participation in the Buoys project</li> <li>• Enhancement of the visitor offer and experience, making Boston more appealing as a destination</li> </ul> |   |  |  |
| <b>Reporting period dates:</b>   | July – Sept 2017  | <b>Number and age of people benefiting from the project during the reporting period:</b> | Wide benefit – significant impact on both residents and visitors |
| <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Aim: -</b></p> <p>For 2017-19 the focus is on improving the public realm by working with Transported, the Boston and South Holland arts organisation, the Port of Boston and community groups.</p> <p>The main focus is on the Tawney Street entrance to Central Park and improvements to the waterways which celebrate the history of the town. Community and business engagement is a central feature of the projects, which will provide a lasting legacy for the future.</p>                            |   |  |  |

**Activities undertaken during reporting period**

|   | <b>Activities completed</b>   | <b>Contract target April 2017– March 2019</b>     | <b>Comments</b>  |
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| <b>Art Deco style garden (to mark forthcoming centenary of purchase of Central Park by the Corporation)</b> | <p>Four Art Deco style steel arches installed by designer’s team on 6/07/17 to complete the main landscaping</p> <p>External funding secured to pay for a sculpture as a centrepiece</p>  | Completion of garden                              | Positive feedback received from the public. See Facebook comments attached.  |
| <b>Pollinator-friendly border, overlooking the river near Haven Bank</b>                                    | <p>Landscaping of first large raised bed almost completed. Remainder of beds sown with Phacelia green manure to attract bees and other beneficial insects.</p> <p>Information notice installed at the raised bed highlighting BBL’s support</p> | Completion of pollinator-friendly planting scheme | See photographs attached   |
| <b>Boston Buoys project</b>   | Following liaison with the Harbour Master, the Port of Boston has agreed to make no charge for the buoys or the loading of them   | Deliver Buoys project                             | The support of a private sector partner should make it easier to secure Arts Council funding for the innovative public art project |

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|   | <p>onto our transport</p> <p>Work started on completing Arts Council funding application for the five re-purposed buoys</p> <p>Artist Brief for the Buoys project completed</p> <p>Discussions underway with LCC Highways regarding the potential location of one of the buoys on the refurbished Liquorpond Street roundabout</p> |               | <p>Image of buoy superimposed on roundabout to aid assessment</p>   |
| <b>Additional funding and support secured</b> | <p>The White Hart Hotel (Coaching Inn Group)</p> <p>Port of Boston</p> <p>Boston Seeds</p>   |               | <p>£2,000 sponsorship secured, to be spent on the central garden feature</p> <p>No charge for the redundant navigation buoys. Value up to £1,000 per buoy depending on size</p> <p>Bulbs and seeds to the value of £1,000 offered to Boston in Bloom. Some of these items will be used for the landscaping of the raised beds</p> |
| <b>Use of local companies</b>                 | B&Q, Boston  | Not specified | Plants  |
| <b>Additional information:-</b>               |  |               |   |

Favourable Facebook comments received regarding the Art Deco garden – see attachment. Press releases also attached.

Photographs of the first phase of the pollinator-friendly border are attached.

The two East Midlands in Bloom (EMIB) judges praised Central Park “with its strong floral displays, newly planted birch trees and Art Deco garden” and went on to say: “The pollinator-friendly raised beds at B&M open space is an exciting project”. Boston in Bloom achieved its third Gold in a row (176 points, an increase of six), with BBL support acknowledged in the Report. In summary, EMIB said: “Congratulations Boston for delivering another excellent entry to this year’s competition and perhaps – who knows – the category winner in 2018.” The full judging report is attached.

#### **Plans for next reporting period**

- Official opening of Art Deco Garden scheduled for 10 November 2017 involving local MP.
- Design for central sculpture to be agreed for Art Deco garden
- Remainder of birch trees to be planted
- Add winter planting to first phase of raised beds near Police Station
- Clear the remainder of the raised beds and add permeable liner to minimise future maintenance
- Complete Arts Council funding application for Buoys project