

WINSTON MILLENNIUM GREEN TRUST



WINSTON MILLENNIUM GREEN AND COMMUNITY WOOD HoT/B2/CIF9

FINAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 2013

Funding Allocation

Heart of Teesdale £10,000.00
Durham County Councillor George Richardson £4,500.00
Durham County Councillor James Rowlandson £4,500.00
Total Funding £19,000.00

Brief History of the Millennium Green

The 7 acres of field and wood were part of Church Farm, originally part of the Bridgewater Estate and sold in 1923 to Durham County Council. When Church Farm became Church Mews in the late 1970's the field was let and in 1997 when Rectory Farm was going to be sold a committee was set up to purchase the field for the Parish.

Following the purchase of the field a Trust was established and funding sought to enable the development of the field into a public amenity to be enjoyed by both residents and visitors to Winston. A viewing platform was constructed at the top of the field with steps and a path running down the field. At the bottom of the field another flight of steps were put in leading on to a boardwalk across boggy ground and connecting to the Teesdale Way and river bank. An area of the field was fence off and planted with Oak and Sweet Chestnut trees which had been grown from seedlings by people in the Parish.

Winston Millennium Green Project

The purpose of this project was to lay a new path connecting the existing field path to the entrance of the Community Wood and to provide a circular walk around the wood. New fencing was also required to the south east boundary as the original fencing was in a poor state and there was a risk of injury to both people and animals due to the sheer fall of the land beyond the boundary. Seating has been provided in the Wood and stone features created at both the top entrance to the field and the entrance to the Wood.

Aims and Objectives

Because the Community Wood was fenced and gated off from the main field very few people ventured in there and we were keen for more people to look round it. By connecting it to the main path and forming a circular walk it has encouraged greater use of this area and the provision of seats has enabled people to admire the trees and enjoy a calm and peaceful environment.

The aim of the stone features carved and built by Ewan Allinson was to demonstrate the ability of a local craftsman to create permanent items of historic interest related to Teesdale in general and Winston in particular.

The erection of a new fence and re-surfacing of part of the existing path were both related to safety issues which we felt were very important. We want the area to be a safe environment for use by people of all ages.

We feel that all the above works have made a major contribution to improving the Millennium Green and Community Wood, making it an even more pleasant place for both residents and visitors to Winston to enjoy.

Legacy

We have received many favourable comments following completion of the works and the stone features have created much interest. It is our opinion that we have an amenity for the Village which will be used and appreciated for many years to come.

Problems

As with all external works the main problem was the weather. A good start was made, but then the rain came followed by snow. Because of the location of the field, the only access for heavy plant and delivery of materials was across an adjacent field owned by a local farmer. The wet weather made it impossible to use this access without causing severe damage to the surface and we therefore had to stop work for several months until the ground was firm enough to allow work to proceed.

Mike Taylor
Chair Winston Millennium Green Committee