

CABINET - 13th SEPTEMBER 2013

REPORT H - UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017

REPORT I - LEICESTER CATHEDRAL GARDENS: ARTWORK COMMISSION AND LANDSCAPING SCHEME

REPORT J- BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD CONSERVATION PLAN

DR THERESA EYNON CC

I wish to make a comment to the Cabinet for the meeting on Friday. It relates to the Culture bid, the Cathedral Gardens and the Bosworth Battlefield - all in one as it relates more generally to investment in Heritage.

As the Local Member for a division that includes Snibston Mining Museum, Snibston Discovery Park, the Century Theatre and Snibston Grange Country Park, I note with interest that the County Council intends to offer a contribution of up to £2 million to underwrite a proportion of the additional investment needed to support a successful City of Culture bid.

It is argued that a successful bid will support the complementary cultural activity in the county, and thereby maximise economic and other benefits for Leicestershire.

The Council also intends to invest £250k in the Cathedral Gardens and 'reprioritise' existing resources to support English Heritage investment in the Bosworth Battlefield.

It is axiomatic in Heritage that every £1 invested returns £9 to the community. While welcoming the Council's recognition of the economic value of culture, I must point out that the same Council only recently turned down an English Heritage grant (not a loan) of £4.5M to improve its flagship Mining Museum in Coalville.

It is generally understood by Coalville residents that Leicestershire County Council wishes to reduce its investment in the Snibston complex of Museums, mothball the 'Shed', relocate the artefacts and sell the Park for housing.

Now that the Council has realised 'Heritage is good for business', will the Council will be reviewing its responsibilities towards the Snibston 'Shed' or does this new understanding not include the community of Coalville?