

Restoring and Developing Award – Winning Parks



APSE seminar
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Green spaces at risk

- Environmental, social and health benefits of parks well - understood
- 1980's and 1990's parks become no-go zones
- Austerity risking this happening again?
- Action to prevent decline and transform spaces to award winning through community ownership and love



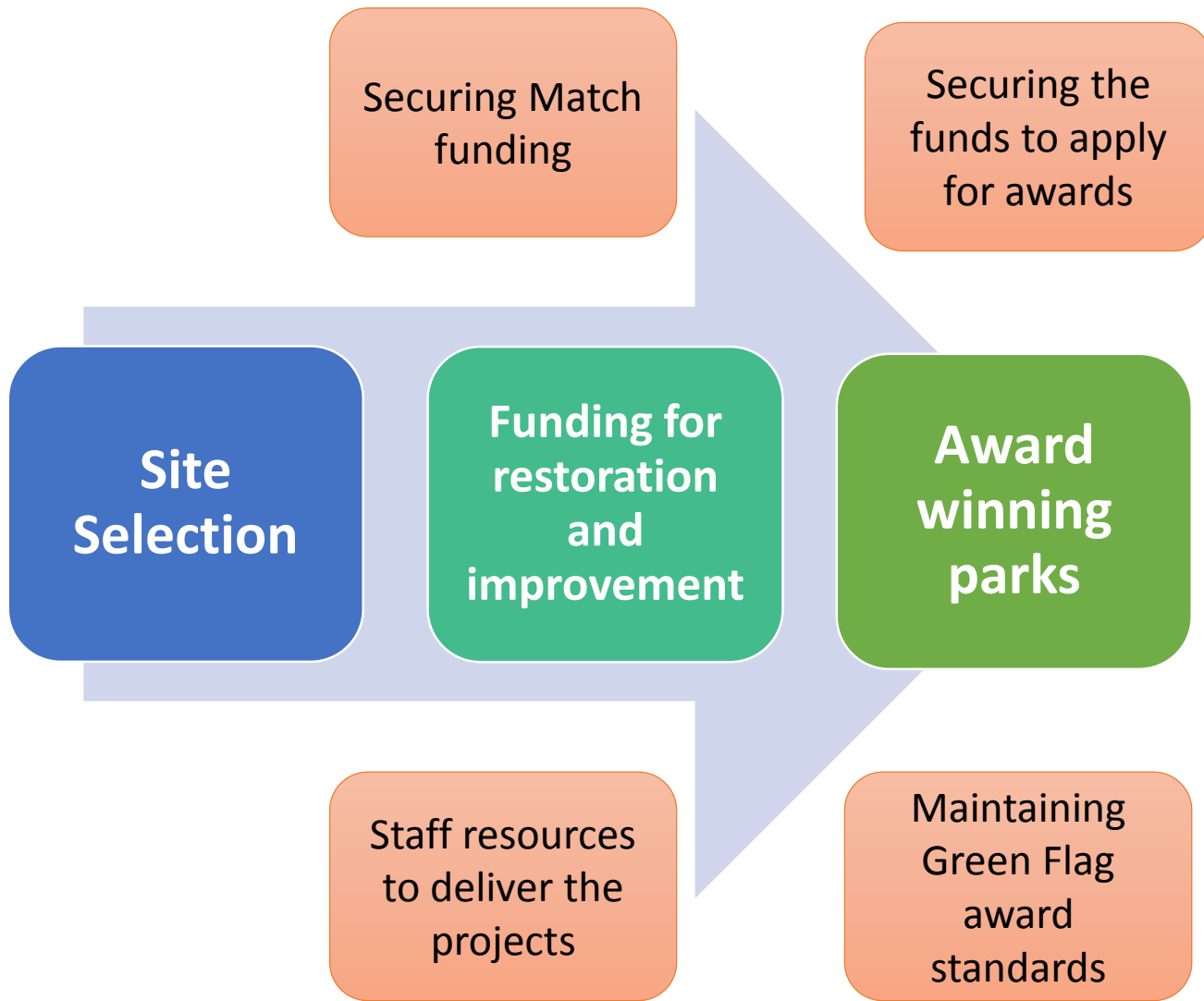
Large scale projects





Features at risk and income development opportunities





Funding smaller projects & match funding



Dudley Council
Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund



Working together to improve our communities



...the historic capital of the Black Country



Smaller projects – closing the gap

- New play areas
- New outdoor gyms
- New signage
- Footpath resurfacing
- Welcome features
- New fencing
- Sensory gardens
- Replacing furniture



Larger Projects: Mary Stevens Park

2013 – 2017 £3.1 million Parks for People Heritage Lottery fund

Restoring heritage features;

- Grade II listed park gates
- Grade II listed war memorial
- 1930's bandstand
- Heath pool



Larger Projects: Priory Park

2010 – 2017 £2.6 million Parks for People Heritage Lottery fund

- Restoring and improving access to Priory Ruins S.A.M
- Upgrading park facilities
- Public art
- Heritage education



Larger Projects: Stevens Park, Quarry Bank

2018 – 2021 £1.8 million National Lottery Heritage Fund

Partnership arrangement with Emily Jordan foundation, main focus on bringing Tintern house into public use and saving from decline



Recent Achievements

- Best Heritage Park – Priory Park
- Best Restoration or Development Project – Mary Stevens Park
- Green flag award for 6 parks and nature reserves and 1 allotment
- New National Nature Reserve at Saltwells
- Points of Light recognition from 10 Downing St for Priory Friends



Challenges

- Finding and securing match funding
- Changing politics
- Restrictive deeds of gift / park covenants
- Resistance to commercialisation
- Resistance to tree works

Other outcomes

- Visitor numbers increased over 40%
- Mary Stevens Park has an estimated footfall of 1.3 million visitors
- 38 volunteer groups, 400 volunteers, £100,000 worth of work
- Increasing awareness of the importance of parks with the Borough



Next steps

- Increasing maintenance
- UNESCO Black Country Geopark
- More LNR's
- Fields in Trust
- Delivery of Quarry Bank Park Heritage fund project

Black Country

UNESCO Global Geopark Project

BANDSTANDS OF BRITAIN

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