

## UPDATE ON STOKES CROFT TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Since the initial talk to VOSCUR in February, the Project Board for the Townscape Heritage Initiative has been formed. This is made up of Jessie Wainwright (Enterprise Manager, Bristol East Side Traders), Myers-Insole Local Learning (Community Education Plan), consultant architects 'Architecton', Kingsley Fulbrook (Project Manager), and Dave Beattie of Ove Arup (Heritage Lottery Fund Monitor).

There has been a good response to the proposed THI from businesses and property owners in the area, and a short-list of potential grant-aided schemes has been drawn up for 11 properties. These have been surveyed by Architecton and details of possible eligible works drawn up. In addition to these eleven properties, a reserve list will also be drawn up of other interested parties.

A draft education plan has been developed by the education consultants, who have had a positive response to the proposed THI from four local junior schools, a secondary school and several local businesses. The community education plan envisages, amongst several options, the creation of a Heritage Trail and a 'top trumps' card collecting scheme to develop local history learning resources.

The community education plan would slot into a wider community involvement plan to include local voluntary groups, amenity societies, churches, residents, and artists, in raising the economic and social profile of Stokes Croft, and combatting negative features such as rubbish, street clutter, fly-posting, tagging, crime and anti-social behaviour. The various relevant departments of the City Council have been meeting together to co-ordinate efforts on this agenda in conjunction with the St Paul's Action Plan and the Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan.

Following the current development work, a Stage II application will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in October, and a favourable decision on this next January will mean works can start on site in the 2008/9 financial year.

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