

1 Introduction

This document outlines a proposal to East Devon District Council to support and become an active partner in a project to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the British Ugandan Asians' arrival at Heathfield Resettlement Camp in Honiton.

In 1972/3 Devon County Council along with several support services and local people played a pivotal role and the project is now seeking similar enthusiasm and support from EDDC

Now, 50 years on, we are planning a historic gathering of the town folks and the dispersed, settled Ugandan Asians Community who passed through the resettlement camp, and bring a sense of pride and achievement; reflections of the events then; comradeship and togetherness.

2 Project Aims and Outcomes

1. Record and archive their experiences to form an oral history to be housed at the Honiton museum. Including photographs and newspapers articles.
Plan to archive
 - 50 Photos and memorabilia (newsletter, newspaper clips, letters, etc)
 - 50 interviews of Ugandan Asians and local people
2. Hold a high profile, well published reunion event on 1st or 2nd of October 2022 (tbc) to mark the 50th Anniversary and serve as Asians thank you to local people for their support and hospitality. The event will include an exhibition, Indian food and dance and a power point presentation.
 - Expect about 100 people
 - Local councillors and Local folks
3. Install a permanent reminder of the role that Heathfield Resettlement Camp played in seeing through nearly 1800 people
 - Install a commemorative plaque in the location where the camp stood.
 - Tree planting – near or on the site where the camp stood

3 Proposal to EDDC

The project faces several challenges. However, the project team would like to work with EDDC on several issues. The collaborative approach will have better and far reaching outcomes. The project team is keen to engage EDDC at every stage and in all activities.

3.1 Information & History

Due to passage of time, there is lack of information and history of the Heathfield Resettlement Camp. The project team will continue the search the internet, archives, residents, media and make contacts with the Ugandan Asians..

- We need to explore what information the council may have in its archives. Looking for old photos, maps and site plans of the camp before redevelopment. Also, any record of Heathfield Resettlement Camp

3.2 Publicity

The team will soon embark on local publicity via social media, local newspapers and other means available.

- How can EDDC help with publicity, particularly reaching people who were associated with the camp in 1972.

3.3 Funding or in-kind support

The project has been invited to join a heritage funded project, and as a partner there is small funding available provided the project delivers the information. This will cover the basic expenses for the reunion and some of the displays, but not for the hall hire.

- We need to explore if EDDC can provide Funds, or support in grant application
- Provide free spaces for meetings and the reunion.

3.4 Use of facilities

Venue for the reunion for 100+ guests; place for exhibition and stage area performance – dances and music.

- Explore the use of the EDDC facilities

3.5 Commemorative Plaque

We would like to install a simple plaque to

- Provide guidance, expedite the planning and suggest best place to install the plaque.

3.6 Tree planting

The project is keen to plant a tree(s) to mark the 50th Anniversary.

- Assist in identifying the site for tree planting. Heath park would be an ideal site

4 Benefits

There are several direct and indirect benefits of this initiative.

1. The initiative will ensure that Honiton's role in settling nearly 1800 Ugandan Asians is recognised in all echelons, including several projects lined up for the end of 2022. (Note that nearly 10% of Ugandan Asians passed through Heathfield).
2. Ensure that Heathfield remains in the physic of the public, not only the Asians, but also in all contexts relating to Ugandan Asians. There are several initiatives in Leicester and London covering the camps in Wales, Suffolk, and other areas – but none in the West Country.
3. Play a role in any planned regional and national programs and debates about the British Ugandan Asians.
4. Honiton Museum will be part of an elite group holding archives on Ugandan Asians, and potential to increase its stature.
5. There is financial benefit to the local economy. Apart from the immediate attraction of the reunion, which is likely to attract UA back to Honiton, there will be ongoing visits in future when Ugandan Asians are on their nostalgic tours.

5 Way forward for EDDC

As a way forward, we are suggesting the following timescales

1. Acknowledge the receipt of the proposal by 30th May 2022
2. Consider the proposal with some urgency and decide how and the type of support to support the project.
3. Arrange to meet the key project people around 13th June 2022 to explore the way forward. We assume EDDC will be represented by the Leader of the Council and/or the Senior members so we can expedite the planning for the celebration.

6 Contacts

The contacts for the project are:

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