

SOUTHPORT TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT



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WHAT IS THE SOUTHPORT TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT?

The Townscape Heritage project is a regeneration project which is intended to help improve historic buildings in Southport’s town centre that are in need of investment by offering generous property refurbishment grants to owners and businesses.

With support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) the project was approved in autumn 2019 and commenced January 2020 and is a five year window of opportunity allowing owners of specific target properties in the Lord Street Conservation Area to access grant funding. Property owners or those holding a lease with at least ten years remaining can apply for grants to repair the external fabric of buildings. In a small number of cases, grant from the NLHF might be available to bring vacant shops and upper floors back into use. The overall aim is to help make Southport’s town centre even more attractive and vibrant by safeguarding its rich attractive historic buildings and making them fit for purpose for businesses, visitors and residents. The Southport Townscape Heritage project concludes in December 2024 at which point all work must have been completed.

Southport has previously benefitted from Townscape Heritage funding which resulted in several town centre buildings being completely refurbished with many new shops and residential space being created.

This previous scheme also created new employment and training opportunities and helped improve the quality of the town centre environment.

Artist's impressions of proposed improvements



WHAT CAN BE FUNDED?

Eligible works

The Southport Townscape Heritage project can help fund the following work;

- Structural and external repair of historic buildings,
- including new roofs in traditional materials
- as well as repairs to brickwork and masonry.
- Reinstatement of authentic architectural features,
- for example: traditional shopfronts, windows and
- decorative features in timber and glass (not upvc).



Training

In order to carry out the above work Southport Townscape Heritage project will be looking for craftspeople who understand traditional construction techniques, joinery, glazing and metalwork.

There may be people out there who want to understand more about such traditional skills, whether they be professionals who want to broaden their skill base, students, or property owners who want to understand how their building should be repaired as well as what questions to ask to test someone who turns up claiming to be able to do the work.

As part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project we will be hosting occasional ‘twilight’ taster sessions designed to offer an introduction, and for those wishing to delve deeper, we will then signpost you in the right direction.

Our twilight sessions will be held as the title suggests, afternoon and into early evening during the summer and autumn months when we can firstly go out and look at buildings and then head back for a short workshop and yes, you’ll have chance of getting your hands dirty with lime mortar, render and basic carpentry.

PROJECT AREA

Townscape Heritage Project boundary

The project boundary is the area in which properties are eligible to apply for grant funding. The Council has already written to owners of all target properties. For those who did not reply to our letters first time round we would still be pleased to hear from you. You still have an opportunity to work with the project team to develop proposals in greater detail but don’t forget, all work must be completed by December 2024. It’s therefore important to make progress in order to benefit from National Lottery Heritage Fund grant before the end of the scheme.



 Possible target properties

 Scarisbrick Avenue public realm

EXAMPLES OF GRANT WORKS

Previous projects completed in 2006-2010

Nevill Street



Before work began



After work was completed

Seabank road



Before work began



After work was completed

These properties on Nevill Street and Seabank Road used to be vacant until the owners joined the previous Southport Townscape Heritage Scheme which ran from 2006-2010 and benefitted from high quality new shop fronts and repairs to the upper floors. Pavements along Nevill Street were also upgraded with new natural stone to provide a better pedestrian environment.

Previous projects completed in 2006-2010

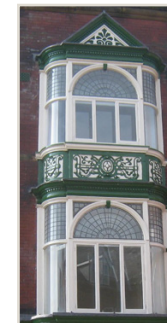
23-35 Scarisbrick Avenue



Before work began



After work was completed



Attractive upper floor details

This entire block of properties on Scarisbrick Avenue was completely vacant and boarded up. The owners applied to the Townscape Heritage project and worked closely with the Council to completely transform their property into new residential flats. The single large ground floor unit has been fitted with toughened glass. This creates a pleasant street to walk down and a major improvement on external steel roller shutters which Sefton Council will no longer allow on shop frontages.

SCARISBRICK AVENUE

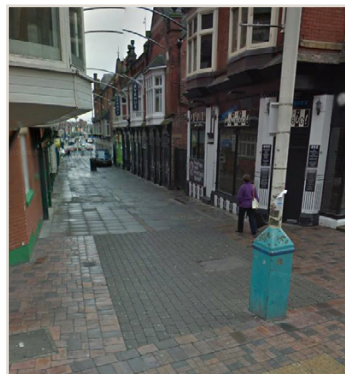
New public realm

The Southport Townscape Heritage project is providing a catalyst for £800 000 funding to improve paving and lighting along Scarisbrick Avenue which will happen during 2022. This is an important link between Lord Street and Southport Seafront, where significant investment has previously taken place.

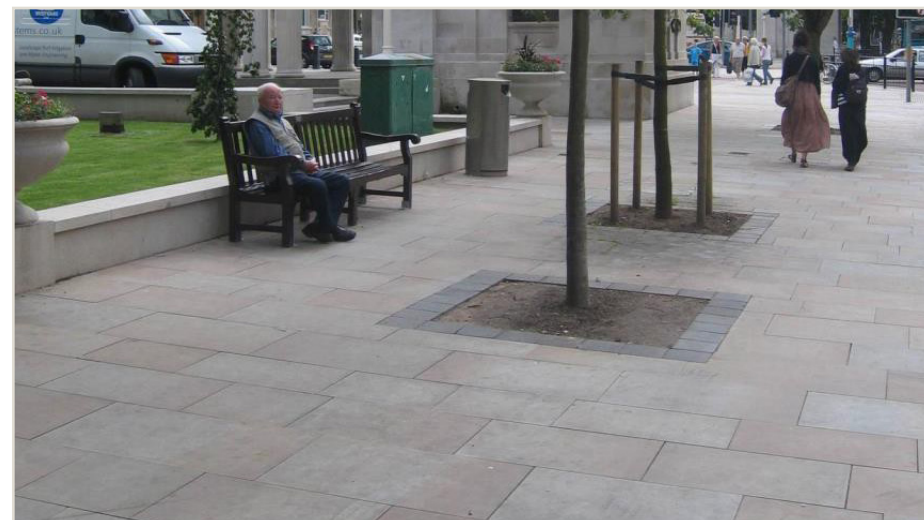
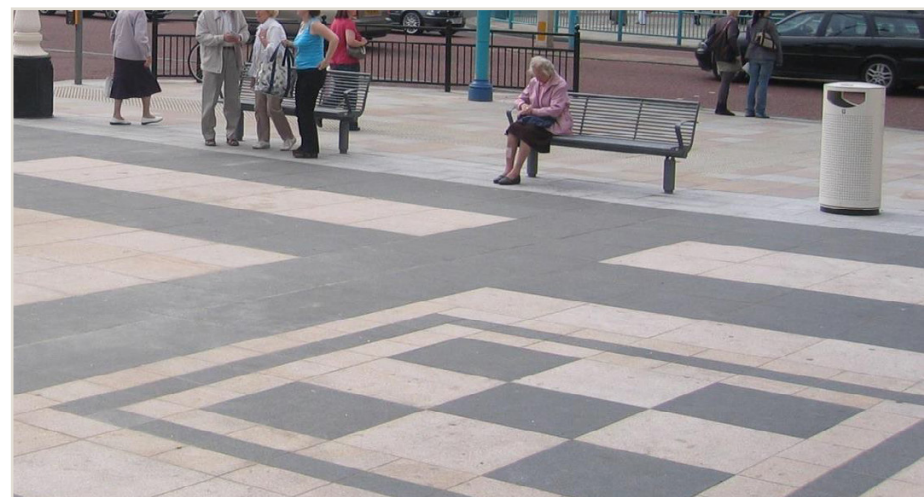
Improvements to the streetscape will increase footfall with more visitors walking down the street. We hope that property owners will take advantage of funding and invest in improving shopfronts, making the street even more presentable, this would encourage those visitors to linger on a more attractive street.

The grant funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund presents a one-off opportunity for this to happen through grant funded shopfront improvements on Scarisbrick Avenue.

Existing worn out and dilapidated pavements along Scarisbrick Avenue



The images below are from Lord Street and show the types of high quality natural stone paving that will be similar to improvement works extending along the entire length of Scarisbrick Avenue between Lord Street to the Promenade. This will complement grant-aided works to the adjacent buildings.



HERITAGE-LED REGENERATION

Why Southport town centre?

Southport has a unique and special character. The town centre and seafront are both within Conservation Areas and these areas have special historic character that should be preserved and enhanced. Alterations to change the appearance of shopfronts in the town centre Conservation Areas should not be undertaken without first speaking with the Planning Department.

Unauthorised works may result in legal action.



In recent years there has been a decline in the quality and appearance of some town centre premises and the streetscape in general. Many buildings were altered, often during the 1960's and 1970's, when historic buildings were perhaps not as valued as they are now. Examples of such alterations include modern shop fronts and the removal of original details. Today, however,

there is a strong desire to see Southport's unique heritage preserved and for poor quality alterations to be undone and original features lovingly restored and missing features reinstated.

Historic buildings are crucial to Southport's economy as they provide the locations for shops and business premises. The historic verandahs provide an almost unique but functional way of walking the main street without having to dodge rain drops and as such, high quality maintenance and repair of these structures is crucial to luring visitors year after year. These visitors travel to Southport to spend time in the town's unique historic environment and this supports jobs and opportunities for local people. There are, however, several vacant properties and buildings suffering from a lack of maintenance. Vacant shops and upper floors are capable of conversion into new shops and residential accommodation and it is these buildings which provide opportunities for further economic development.

Delivering the Townscape Heritage project will help to build momentum for the further regeneration of Southport and encourage further inward investment into the town centre and outlying areas.



Vacant seafront building – before work



Conversion to new tea rooms business following grant-aided restoration

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

As well as grants, the project has lots of activities to support historic building owners and to give everyone a chance to find out about the heritage on the streets around them.

Looking after an older building – taster workshops



Our workshops will give you the knowledge and skills to keep your walls, windows, ironwork and roofs weathertight and protect them for the long-term. Sash windows, old brickwork, balconies and verandahs need straightforward but simple solutions – avoid the wrong treatments that can cause more problems! Contact us – see page 15 – for more information or if you'd like us to cover particular building issues.

Get involved

We'd love to hear from anyone interested in Southport's old buildings and their histories. Or schools and community groups who'd like to develop and use our resources. There are opportunities for volunteer researchers, tour guides, photographers, film makers and more to help reveal the heritage around us. We also produce family trail leaflets, run guided walks and put on events for Heritage Open Days in September. You can find out about everything going on and get in touch through our website www.SouthportTownscape.org.uk or follow us on social media @SouthportTHP

KEEP UP TO DATE

If you are interested in receiving a grant, learning new skills, getting your school or group involved, taking part in events, or if you have ideas for other activities, get in touch and keep up to date with the project using any of the following methods.

Website: www.southporttownscape.org.uk

Facebook: [Southport Townscape Heritage project](#)

Twitter: [@SouthportTHP](#)

YouTube: [Southport Townscape Heritage Project](#)

Email: Paul.Crowther@sefton.gov.uk (tel 07971 811753) for building grants, heritage building skills, project information

Email: Sue.Latimer@sefton.gov.uk (tel 07816 114885) for events, schools and community involvement, Heritage Open Days

Correspondence address:

Sefton Council Planning Services,
Magdalen House,
30 Trinity Road,
Bootle,
L20 3NJ

Please note, the project team are out and about, so contact by email or through the website is best.



“National Lottery Heritage Funding has helped us with the detail of our project. We’re excited with our new retail units and high specification self-contained flats”.

Paul Halsall,
Director, Ironshore Global.



Street works-Breathing new life into Scarisbrick Avenue.

SOUTHPORT TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT

Sefton Council

