

Historic park up for £2m revamp

Education area and café among the proposals

A BID for £2million in funding to revamp an Ipswich park will be made this week, it has emerged.

Ipswich Borough Council is hoping to secure the cash from the Parks for People initiative – run by the Heritage Lottery Fund – to revamp Holywells Park in a similar way to a project at Christchurch Park.

Last year £75,000 was set aside to allow for final preparatory work on the bid for funding which will be made by tomorrow.

The all-clear to seek the funding was given at a meeting of the council's executive committee last week.

Judy Terry, *pictured*, responsible for arts, culture and leisure at Ipswich Borough Council, said the project will involve the community and allow people to discover the park.

She said: "It is one of the historic parks and has industrial connections with the old brewery as the water to make the beer came from ponds in the park.

"People used to describe it as a secret park because there were so many trees and masses of wildlife.

"Not many people know much about it but since a new play area was put

in there has been a 1,000 per cent increase in usage and people are really discovering it."

Plans for the park, which would be made over a five-year period, include renovating two listed buildings, the orangery, and a stable block. The stable block will include an education area and café.

Meanwhile, improvement and landscaping work will take place across the park with help being provided from Otley College.

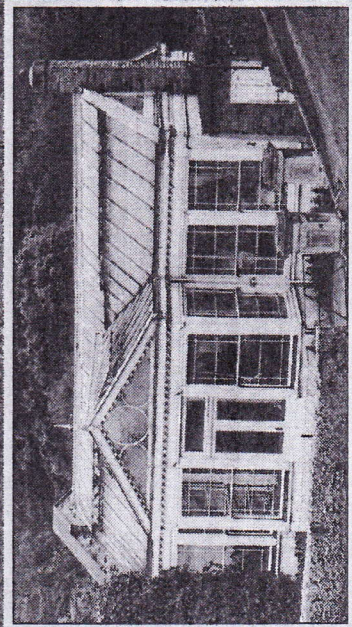
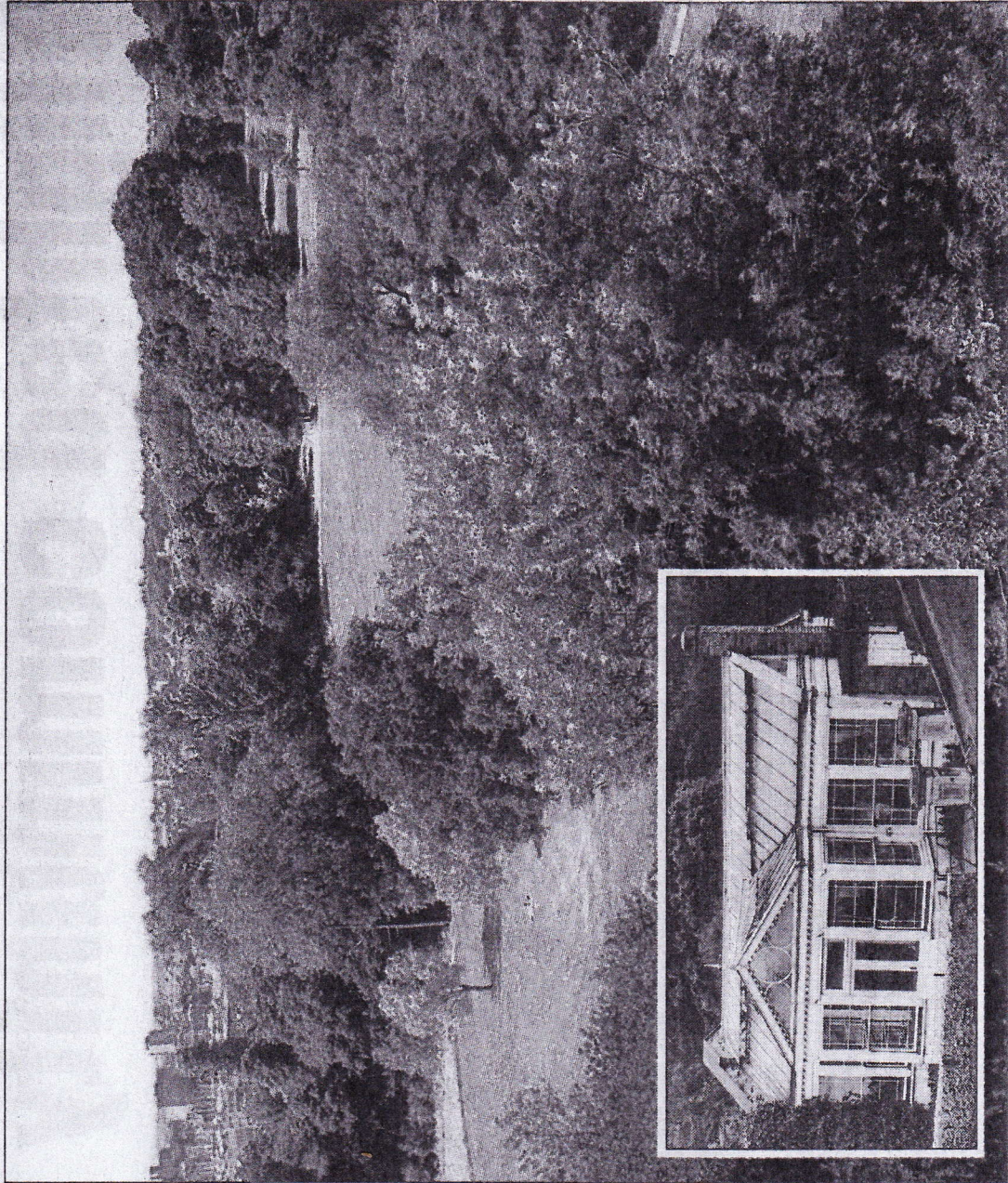
A number of community schemes will also be launched including a

green gym project to get people involved with exercising outdoors.

Young people from schools across the area will also get to learn about the natural world through visits to the park as part of a Forest Schools Initiative.

The funding bid follows Christchurch Park receiving a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of around £4million in 2004 for a programme of extensive renovation and restoration of its historical features.

A further bid for lottery money, for cash to transform Chantry Park, could be made in the future.



FACELIFT: Holywells Park and insert, the orangery.