



VOLUNTEERS: Litter-pickers all ready for action.

Twin bid to boost area

TWO organisations came together on Saturday for an event to help improve and promote Elsecar for locals and visitors.

Elsecar Heritage Centre teamed up with the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership for the event on Saturday, which included work to spruce up the canal basin, as well as nature trail sessions to help children recognise the diversity of the natural habitat as well as learning more about the history of the area.

But the work also had a longer-lasting purpose, with details of insects and other species being identified being logged so they could be officially recorded.

That will contribute towards a resource which could be used to provide information to help decision-making on future development work in the area.

Dr John Tanner, who is based at the heritage centre, said: "DVLVP is doing fantastic projects across the Dearne Valley, engaging people with the history and biodiversity of the area."

Roseanna Burton, of DVLVP, said

the organisation had been set up for a five-year lifespan with funding from the Lottery and had backing from the Sorby Natural History Society to help identify and log the species inhabiting different areas of the Dearne Valley.

"We are recording wildlife in each planning authority," she said.

Saturday's session also included litter-picking, with volunteers helping to improve the area.

Dr Tanner said: "We have people who visit Elsecar from all over and others who come out from the neighbourhood.

"We want to make sure it is perfect for people to explore, whether it is people walking their dogs or who have travelled hundreds of miles to get here."

The future of Elsecar as a visitor destination has been given a double boost recently, with new funding and official status as an area to get special attention.

That comes on top of other initiatives, including the restoration of the Newcomen beam engine at Elsecar New Colliery.