

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 3 June 2024

Title: Blue Plaques Refurbishment

Contact Officer: Business Administration Apprentice

Background

The Blue Plaques at Langdale Hall, the Buttercross, and the Town Hall are visually worn and tired. A recommendation from the Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee on 22nd January 2024 agreed the Town Hall and Buttercross signs should be replaced.

To uphold the reputation of Witney and Witney residents' perception of the town council as well as keeping the pride of the historical buildings, refurbishing all the plaques would be beneficial.



The Corn Exchange blue plaque has already recently been refurbished. Restoring the three above to the same standard is desired.



Current Situation

The Blue Plaques need refurbishing. This task has been handed to the Business Administration Apprentice for organising and completing.

Quotes were sought from 5 companies, however only two were able to provide – details can be seen in the financial implications below.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

- All removing and installing will be ensured to follow Health and Safety laws. Property must be protected and preserved throughout the process, such as buildings and the plaques.
- Appropriate and clear communication will ensure the public and those working around the areas of construction are aware of such changes taking place.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates. Benefits provided by the above items are:

- Build Community and Civic Pride
- Improve the Reputation of the Town Council
- Preserve Local History/Heritage and Town Identity

Financial implications

- The cost of delivery (3 x parcels) would total to £110 and consumables (Screws, Drill Bits) to around £5.
- (Quote A) £432 [+ £115 = **£547**]
- (Quote B) £552.50 [+ £115 = **£667.50**]
- The project may need the addition of a Cherry Picker rental for up to £400. To reduce this cost, the plaque restoration could be postponed until the next Cherry Picker rental.
- In the 2022/23 fiscal year, the Council budgeted £1,000 for this project on budget line 4109/408. This was carried forward and the Corn Exchange cost was £192.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. To work with the supplier A and restore the Blue Plaques around Witney as presented in the report.