

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 8 July 2024

Title: Children's Memorial Garden

Contact Officer: Project Officer

Background

In January 2022, Witney Town Council (WTC) was tasked with creating a Children's Memorial Garden for the community with a budget of £1,000. WTC identified a suitable location in Windrush Cemetery that had archaeological restrictions reducing risk of burial spaces being impacted. The budget only allowed for a small number of features, namely Bench, Metal Archway and Pebble Pond. WTC also planted an attractive plant to grow over the arch, sadly this died due to poor soil condition.



Current Situation

- Due to the budget constraint the garden was delivered the best it could be, but WTC always felt more could be done. Officers have identified an opportunity to improve the garden by utilising some of the £4,000 "Britain in Bloom" budget for improvements.
- Officers discovered an appropriate style of ornament for the garden that was installed at another council, which is shown in the picture below:



- Officers felt this design was attractive, appropriate for the garden and allowed the community to customise leaves with messages of their choice.
- Officers researched this tree and engaged with the manufacturer who confirmed the tree would cost £12,000 (+VAT) to supply, which sadly exceeded the Council's budget (£1,500).

- Officers are now exploring opportunities with local fabricators to create the same or similar tree, within budget (or negotiate price with sponsorship).
- Officers are researching an alternative solution for archway decoration.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26th June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make regarding 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.

- This report is an update of progress with this project and risks associated with delivery will be managed by Council Officers.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

- The Garden will become an area of contemplation for the community in a picturesque location for healing, inspiration, remembrance and reflection.
- The Community will have an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of a loved one through engraved leaf.

Financial implications

- Officers will report on quotes when received in the future.

Recommendations

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

- This is a project update however any feedback is always appreciated.