

SPORT AND PLAY COMMITTEE

Date: 1st March 2021

Title: Old Bowls Building – The Leys

Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer - John Hickman

Background

The Witney Town Bowls Club has requested Witney Town Council set a maintenance budget for this building for 21/22 & 22/23 financial years to carry out maintenance and repairs to this structure. The Operations and Estates Officer has requested copies of the historical information the club state they have regarding this building.

The structure is currently 1/3 covered in ivy, the wooden doors, windows facia are badly decayed and rainwater gutters etc. are in very poor condition. Many of the panes of glass are missing and the last time any maintenance work was carried out these have been boarded over and paint to look as if the glass is still present. The building is currently still watertight over than close to the access doors.

Current Situation

The corrugated roof sheets covering the roof was tested for asbestos and the tests have come back positive Chrysotile, White Asbestos.

The material is safe to be left as it is and should have a long remaining lifespan and if inspected annually to ensure no damages have occurred and it is not breaking down in any way. There is no real reason to remove it at this point in time. Anybody carrying out building works etc. to this structure would need to be advise that the roof is white asbestos, and it should not be drilled or damaged in any way.

If council were to remove the asbestos this would be costly and the roof if the structure were removed would require to be recovered with an alternative material.

The structure could be left as is and continue to be used for storage as present, the Ivy could be left as this allows the structure to blend in with the surroundings, the sapling suckers etc. could be removed from the exterior surround the structure, and the shrubs pruned this would make the whole structure look much neater and tidier. Finally, some climbing plants like Honeysuckle, clematis could be planted against the structure and existing ivy to create a much more astatically please feature of the structure at very limited cost to Witney Town Council. The Works team would be able to carry out the associated work required.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind 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.

Financial implications

➤ £50 Climbing Plants if agreed by council.

Recommendations

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

1. Leaving the existing asbestos roof covering in place.
2. Removal of the asbestos roofing and replacement roof, Officers to get quotes for associated works and materials.
3. Tidying up external shrubs and removing saplings. Using the works team.
4. Planting climbing plants against the structure and ivy.