

## FULL COUNCIL

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**Date:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
**Title:** Project Update  
**Contact Officer:** Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

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### Background

The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the current status of projects falling under the remit of the Project Officer.

### Current Situation

#### Corn Exchange Seating

- Core holes identified the required structure in the main hall floor to support the seating.
- Electrical work to the lights is booked for w/c 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- Hussey are booked to install the seating w/c 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- Henley Theatre Services and Cotswold Security Services will be attending during that week to fix electrical connections and additional smoke detectors.
- The system will be tested and commissioned by Drama By Design on 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- The Project Officer has arranged for Building Control to inspect on 12<sup>th</sup> December, ensuring that the seating can be used for the pantomime.

#### Corn Exchange Cinema Equipment

- The Project Officer requested a quote from Henley Theatre Services for cinema equipment capable of showing National Theatre Live (as requested by Council). It was almost double the budget and she therefore asked for a stripped back version. The quote is £35,461.33 excluding VAT. This is still over the £20,000 budget but anything of a lower specification will not be able to show NT Live as they have certain minimum requirements. The Project Officer continues to look for grants towards this but it is hard to make a compelling argument for need as Witney is already served by Cineworld which shows NT Live. If the Council is minded not to commit to NT live, further costs savings could be made to provide a functional cinema system.

### Alice Batt Blue Plaque

- The Blue Plaque was formally unveiled on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The ceremony was well attended and included some of Alice Batt's great nieces and nephews and their children. The Society offered its thanks to the Corn Exchange on providing a lovely reception afterwards.

### Cycle Repair Stand

- The Project Officer is in dialogue with the repair company on a suitable date to repair the stand at The Leys. They have just offered a more secure upgrade to repair the pump free of charge which should hopefully reduce the chance of vandalism.

### Burwell Hall Changing Rooms/Heating

The Town Clerk provided an update to members on this project at the Policy, Governance and Finance Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The replacement boiler had been put on hold whilst plans for the changing rooms were being drawn up, as this would impact on them. Whilst the CHP Fuel cell Boiler does have benefits, our consultants Ridge have cautioned against it as the building has fluctuating heat requirements (rather than a hospital, for example, which has fairly constant and consistent requirements) and because the technology is relatively new. Ridge feels a Fuel Cell CHP boiler would not give the Council value for money. Their preference would be a replacement gas boiler which would be much more energy efficient than the existing. However, the installer (who installs all types of heating systems and not only Fuel Cell CHP boilers) felt that it would be suitable. Members will recall that the Council's gas supply is 100% renewable source gas.

### *Risk*

- If the Council does go ahead with a fuel cell CHP boiler, it may prove not to be as efficient as hoped.

### Burwell Hall Washroom Upgrade

- The Project Officer was tasked with looking into refurbishing the ladies and men's toilets at Burwell Hall which has become increasingly urgent. This is proving complex as the majority of companies will provide the panelling, sanitary ware etc but will not carry out plumbing, meaning that the Council will need to employ a plumbing company to carry this out. There is also the question of flooring. The Project Officer is in the process of obtaining quotations but it is looking as though the total cost will be in the region of £30,000 - £35,000.

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Legacy Project

- The Project Officer should be able to send RAMS over to WODC w/c 3rd October and the Operations Manager is looking to programme the work between 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### Happy to Chat Bench

- The Project Officer has received confirmation that although the bench is in the conservation area, WODC is happy for this to go ahead. The Operations Manager is programming this work in.

### Play Area Improvement Programme

- This is in progress, and a report should be ready for the next Parks and Recreation meeting.

### Tennis Court Slip Testing

- The Project Officer has been contacted by the Tennis Club to say that the courts seem to have lost their slipperiness which is believed to be due to the recent amount of rainfall experienced, after the prolonged dry spell. This effectively washes out a certain chemical which in turn reduces slippage.
- The Club has suggested waiting a few more weeks to make sure the courts are still performing until making a final decision.

### Covid Memorial

- The Operations Manager met with members at the site on Church Green as initially requested, and also at a location at the far end of The Leys. Members expressed a preference for The Leys. There is still no firm concept of what the memorial should be although ideally it should be made of two halves – one to represent the lives lost during the pandemic and one to represent the acts of kindness and hope that took place during the pandemic.

### Children's Memorial Garden

- Members dismissed the idea of a pond citing flooding and safety concerns.
- The Project Officer will discuss the idea of an archway with the Ranger and Operations Manager.
- A "centre point" is still needed to put the pebbles around – suggestions from Councillors would be welcome.

## **Recommendations**

Member are invited to note the report.