

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 14 November 2022

Title: Happy to Chat Bench

Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

This report is to update members on the progress of the creation of the Chat Bench outside of the Halifax bank. The Committee had previously recommended that the bench should be painted in the colours of the Town Council logo and should have the words “Happy to Chat” painted on the bench, rather than having a sign affixed.

Current Situation

The Project Officer contacted the District Council Planning Department to check if planning permission would be required as the bench falls within the conservation area. Planning permission is not required to paint the bench but it would be required to paint the words “Happy to Chat”. A sign/plaque would not require planning permission.

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. There is no environmental impact associated with this project.

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. There is no risk associated with this project.

Financial implications

A brass plaque could be ordered from a local cobbler – the costs ranges from £20 - £40.

Recommendations

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

1. If a brass sign should be placed on the bench in place of the hand painted words;
2. Or if hand painting is preferred, if planning permission should be applied for. Members should note that the Operations Manager has not yet got a design for the hand painted words, which could make applying for planning permission difficult.