

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OBELISK INTERPRETATION BOARD



Report Reference EN-20-03
Meeting Date 30th November 2020
Agenda Item 9
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

In January 2020 the Town Council took responsibility for the land and obelisk on Chelford Road as part of plans to make a gateway feature of the obelisk. In the early part of the year the council commissioned a contractor to clear the overgrown trees and reveal the obelisk. The council had then commissioned a stonemason to undertake repairs, repointing and cleaning of the obelisk, however after frequent chasing the contractor become non-responsive and it was necessary to retender the contract. The works to the obelisk have now been scheduled for early December. The council secured £5,150 of funding towards the project and the total costs to date for the tree works, repairs and landscaping (whips for a new hedge to the rear of the site, grass seed etc) come to £6,065 making the cost to the council £915 which is within the budget agreed by council in September 2019.

A number of posts on Facebook groups demonstrate that the objective of revealing the obelisk has been successful as over the last 10 months residents have queried what the obelisk is and how long it has been there.

2.0 INTERPRETATION BOARD

An idea initially discussed at the outset of the project was the installation of an interpretation board; this was not included in the original scope of works due to the grant funding not covering the cost.

Interpretation boards are designed to help passers by interpret their surroundings, in this context it would explain the history of the obelisk and include a selection of old photographs. It would also enable the council highlight its work in restoring the obelisk.

The cost for a single post A2 oak lectern interpretation board (see example overleaf), inclusive of installation, would be £870. The design of the board would be undertaken in house. The cost would be covered by the budget in 4200/330.

The board would be prepared in consultation with Knutsford Heritage Centre. It is suggested that it be installed on the verge opposite the obelisk, so it is next to the pavement. Permission would be required from Cheshire East Highways.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider the installation of an interpretation board as outlined.



Example A2 Oak Lectern from the preferred supplier (Nature Sign Design)