

# REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

## CANUTE MOSAIC

**Report Reference** ET-23-04  
**Meeting Date** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
**Agenda Item** 10  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

In c.1995 a mosaic was created at the entrance to Heritage Way. The mosaic depicts King Canute and is surrounded by an area of block paving. This area of Heritage Way is unregistered land. The council has previously investigated the ownership and been unable to identify a potential owner. It is not clear if the council was involved in the creation of the mosaic, though council minutes do not indicate this was the case.

### 2.0 REPAIRS TO PAVING

The council funded repairs to the paving around the in 2005 and 2015. The setts again require repair. As the area is an entrance point to a number of businesses, it is subject to regular traffic which over time dislodges the setts. This is exacerbated by parking and heavier vehicles such as big wagons.

Only one contractor responded to a request for quotes and provided a cost of “approximately” £2,000 subject to works required when setts are lifted and reset. Further quotes will be required. Last time repairs were undertaken, Tatton Estate Management contributed to the costs, this could be explored again. The committee’s External Contractors cost code (£3,500 budget) could be used to fund works.

### 3.0 REGISTRATION OF LAND

As noted, the land is currently unregistered and investigations of available records have not indicated ownership. Under the Land Registration Act 2002 an application to register unregistered land can be made after a period of 12 years by an occupier. The application would need to be accompanied by a statutory declaration that the applicant has controlled/managed the land as an owner would.

Since 2005 the Town Council has undertaken management of this area. It has undertaken repairs to the setts, installed street furniture (a bin) and sought to dissuade parking on the area. This gives a period of 18 years and the council could look to secure ownership of the land to strengthen its ability to manage the area. The cost for this would be under £100. As this would effectively constitute the acquisition of an asset, approval of full council would be required.

### 4.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should determine:

- a) If it wishes to tender for repairs to the paving
- b) If it wishes to recommend to full council that it authorise an application to register the land