

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

CANUTE MOSAIC BLUE PLAQUE PROPOSAL

Report Reference ET-24-04
Meeting Date 24th June 2024
Agenda Item 10
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Town Council's Blue Plaques Scheme looks to help visitors and residents identify with the history of the town and aims to promote the recognition and awareness of people, places and events which have been of lasting significance in the life of Knutsford or more widely.

The Town Council encourages suggestions from members of the public for suitable plaques. A decision to install a blue plaque will be made by the Environment and Transport Committee following a recommendation of the appraisal panel.

A proposal has been submitted for a blue plaque for the Canute Mosaic at Heritage Way.

1.2 COUNCIL POLICY

In order to be eligible for a commemorative plaque an individual must have been deceased for a period of 20 years OR the centenary of their birth has passed. Individuals must also:

- a) Have been an eminent member of their profession or calling OR made a significant contribution to human welfare or happiness
- b) Be recognizable to the well-informed passerby or deserve national recognition
- c) Have distinguished themselves by a significant public service, act of bravery or committed a notorious act.

For plaques commemorating buildings the building must be either locally or nationally known as of special significance and worth of lasting recognition.

When locating plaques, the policy seeks to ensure they are visible from the highway, that plaques for individuals are placed on a residence/site (not a redeveloped site) and the plaques should be installed on buildings rather than gates/boundary walls. A recommendation to locate a plaque which does not meet the three principles must be accompanied by sufficient explanation as to the reason it is deemed acceptable by the appraisal panel.

2.0 APPRAISAL PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

A proposal was received from Knutsford Heritage Centre for a blue plaque in connection with the King Canute mosaic at Heritage Way. The mosaic was created in 1995 and is a focal point in the town where the Knutsford Heritage Centre guided walks start. The proposal notes that a blue plaque would support the conservation of the area by increasing awareness of the mosaic.

2.2 PANEL APPRAISAL

The proposal was reviewed by the blue plaque appraisal panel against the council's criteria for blue plaques.

It was agreed that the artist does not merit a plaque as an individual and appraisal in appraisal as building it was felt that, while a valued piece of art, it is not "locally or nationally known as of special significance".

It was therefore agreed that the application for a blue plaque should be rejected.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee rejects the application for a blue plaque for the Canute mosaic.