

**Committee: Open Spaces**

**Date: 5 October 2021**

**Title: Welcome Back Funding**

**Purpose of Report**

For members to consider which projects they would like to see progressed using the allocated Welcome Back Funding.

**Recommendation:**

It is proposed that Members recommend to Full Council on the 19 October to progress projects as identified at this Open Spaces meeting. Delegation to be given to Officers and the Chair and Vice Chair to implement the selected projects.

**Background:**

1. As a result of a request from South Somerset District Council suggestions were submitted to SSDC as a part of bidding for funds to carry out some works that would help to enhance the town centre and drive in footfall with economic benefit.
2. The funds allocated to Ilminster Town Council form part of the European Regional development Fund (ERDF) "Welcome Back Fund" and totals £12,000.
3. As a result of this the town was to complete a Service Level Agreement SLA and this was taken to Full Council on the 21 September 2021. Members agreed to resolve the signing of the SLA at that meeting.
4. The projects that SSDC have agreed to assist with funding are detailed in **Appendix 8B**. Members will note that the total of the projects identified exceeds the £12,000 that has been allocated.

**Report:**

5. As a result of the recent changes to the Wardens Teams, the Recreation Manager will be required to manage this project and ensure that the money has been used on the projects agreed by the committee.

6. It is suggested that for expediency the final solutions should be delegated to Officers and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Open Spaces Committee.
7. It should be noted that because the prices in the original application were an approximation some projects may cost more than originally anticipated. The table-tennis table being an example of this.
8. Because the total value of the projects exceeds the money made available members will be required to prioritise those projects that they wish to see proceed forward and those which they wish to see placed on a reserve projects list should additional funding be made available.
9. All projects are required to have been completed and forms submitted by the start of March 2022 to allow SSDC time to process the applications.
10. There are existing benches outside the Co-op store in town and members may wish to consider whether there are other areas that would be better suited for benches to be installed. There were a number of locations identified in the submitted application.
11. Members have discussed bench installation in the past and indicated that the preferred option was a “Wessex Garden Bench” produced by Wessex Forge. Details of this bench are contained in **Appendix 8A**.
12. Member may wish to consider whether it would be more appropriate for benches to be installed of a style that matches those around in the surrounding locations. An example of a similar style bench to that which can be found in Ilminster is also detailed in **Appendix 8A**.
13. The final cost of the benches would be negotiated once the number required is established. In the recent past there have been supply issues with benches however it is hoped that these problems are now in the process of being resolved.
14. An example of the suggested table-tennis table that could be installed at the Recreation ground is contained in **Appendix 8A**. The final product would come from a more detailed pricing exercise.
15. Members have already agreed for Cllr Hamilton and Cllr White to work with officers to identify where signage would be most appropriately placed. It is suggested that they should be able to work with the Recreation Manager to specify what is needed to ensure that this aspect of funding is progressed speedily.
16. I am led to believe that the idea of installing low level LED lighting may not be able to go ahead due to ownership issues in Swann precinct. It might be

appropriate for this project to be placed on the reserve list so that it can be investigated more thoroughly with the Chamber of Commerce who put this part of the project forward.

17. Planters and hanging baskets would need to be looked into further but again it would be for members to consider if they wish a design that fits with those already in place or to put in something different.
18. A cycle rack has been proposed for the recreation ground and this is something that may be delegated to officers and the Chair and Vice Chair to implement. An example of the style that is available is provided in **APPENDIX 8A**.
19. It is proposed that Members recommend to Full Council on the 19 October to progress projects as identified at this Open Spaces meeting. Delegation to be given to Officers and the Chair and Vice Chair to implement the selected projects.
20. Members are free to propose their own resolution should they so choose.

**Mark Tredwin**  
**Town Clerk**  
**October 2021**