

Supporting paper for Items 10e, 10f and 10g

Item 10e – Refurbishment of Benches

There are agreed actions in the Annual 2021/22 Parish Council Plan to consider the refurbishment /replacement of existing benches across the Parish, including the 2 in the cemetery.

(Actions 3.2 and 4.1 respectively)

At a site visit 27 January, DCC confirmed that they could refurbish all 11 existing metal benches in the Parish. This would be done as part of a programme of projects built into the proposed Find and Fit Project Plan for the Parish to be delivered later this year. (Item 9 on the agenda)

The usual 2 paint colours used are green or black but other colours should be available.

It was suggested that brown may be a more appropriate colour given that it is proposed to install Marmax brown street furniture as part of the School Avenue Project. We also have 2 brown wooden benches (currently being refurbished) and new brown planters.

The refurbishment would be funded by DCC. Consequently, the replacement of existing benches is not considered necessary.

Parish Council is asked to:

1. Approve the refurbishment of metal benches by DCC
2. Approve brown as our preferred colour to co-ordinate with other street furniture across the parish

Item 10f - Purchase of Additional Benches

There are agreed actions in the Annual 2021/22 Parish Council Plan:

- Provision of 2 new Marmax Benches in the Cemetery (3.2)
- Develop proposals for the Installation of additional benches (4.7)

The supply and installation of the Marmax benches was discussed with DCC. They consider Marmax benches to be a good product and good value.

DCC now have a county wide policy that if parish and town council are happy to fund the purchase of street furniture, DCC will install them on flagstones free of charge. This makes the preparation of budget estimates for such projects much easier.

The current cost of a Marmax Traditional Bench, as proposed to be installed at the School Area Park Project, including security fixing plates is £401. If purchased by the Parish Council, this would be discounted by 5% to £380. DCC have advised they are likely to be able to secure a higher discount.

There would be carriage costs on top of this, but this would vary depending on what is ordered.

For budgeting purposes an indicative cost of £450 for the supply and installation of each bench by DCC would seem appropriate.

Consultation on the proposed locations of new benches would need to be discussed and agreed with DCC as the majority of these are likely to be on DCC land.

Initial suggested initial locations, as captured in the annual plan are: One either side of Jubilee Hall, one outside Doctors Surgery (the latter with a waste bin) but further consideration and consultation is necessary before final proposals can be brought to Parish Council to agree. Preferred options for locations would then need to be agreed with DCC as the majority of these are likely to be on DCC land. Once agreed the project could then be incorporated in the Find & Fix it Project Plan.

Parish Council is asked to

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1. Approve a request for DCC to install 2 Traditional Benches in the cemetery: one on the left path and one on the right path at an estimated cost of £900 as part of the DCC Find & Fix Project Plan
2. Approve the supply and installation of 6 additional benches across the parish by DCC at an estimated cost of £3,000 to be funded from the VIP and / or via AAP grant application if eligible.
3. Note that further consideration of the location of additional benches is needed to determine where these could add most value to the community before DCC is asked to supply and install.
4. To note that the location of waste bins may be influenced by the location of additional benches so consideration of the budget and location of waste bins should be deferred until the location of waste bins is considered.
5. Note that a further report with proposed locations of benches will be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

Item 10f Replacement of existing black square planters with Marmax Hexagonal planters

There is an agreed action in the Annual 2021/22 Parish Council Plan to consider the replacement of 8 black planters with more of the Marmax Hexagonal planters (ref 4.2) purchased 2 years ago.

The 8 existing black planters have been in situ for a number of years and were installed, it is understood, by the former Durham City Council funded from grant secured by the green group.

These are of a style more suitable, it is suggested, for a town centre not a village setting and now look somewhat dated and tired.

Replacement with Marmax planters would complement the new planters and proposed new benches and picnic tables.

Although the black planters are still functional some internal metal support structures are known to be rusty and / or broken and some could do with a complete clear out and all soil/compost being removed and replaced.

Replacing planters at a later date, with more hexagonal planters may not be an option as there is no guarantee that the same product would be available at some unknown time in the future.

Replacement of the planters is likely to be eligible for currently available AAP funding.

Given the above it would therefore seem an opportune time to replace them.

The current cost of a hexagonal planter is £365 when 5% discount applied. The cost of replacing all eight existing planters is therefore £2720 plus carriage. Based on our previous order of Marmax planters, carriage is estimated to be in £160.

An appropriate estimate for supply only is £3,000

These should sit on the existing flagstones if the existing ones are removed.

Whilst DCC will install free of charge, under its new policy, it is not yet known if DCC would charge for the removal and disposal of the old ones. This has been queried with DCC.

It would be prudent to include an additional £1,000 budget for removal.

Parish Council is asked to:

1. Approve asking DCC to remove existing planters and supply and install Marmax Hexagonal Planters as part of the DCC Find & Fix Project Plan.
2. Approve seeking clarification of AAP funding and, if eligible, the submission of a grant application for all /part funding.
3. If no external funding available, to approve funding from the Village Improvement earmarked reserve.