

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 6th July 2021

LJ/2021

29th June 2021

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 12 – STONEWAY STEPS – REPAIRS TO RETAINING WALL

AIM

1. To retrospectively approve the financing of works to repair the retaining wall opposite the Theatre on the Steps on the Stoneway Steps.

BACKGROUND

2. The retaining wall is on land owned by Bridgnorth Town Council but leased to the Cliff Railway and abuts the public highway ('Stoneway Steps')
3. Damage to the wall and potential damage to the drainage pipes attached to it were identified well over a year ago. An inspection by Shropshire Council led to the area immediately adjacent to the wall to be fenced off to minimise the risk of further damage.
4. The retaining wall requires a repair to a significant number of displaced bricks if it is to be made safe.
5. The Town Council does not have any civil engineers and as such sought advice and guidance from Shropshire Council's Highways department.
6. Some of the issues arise as a result of the self-seeding vegetation behind the wall and on the cliff face. The vegetation was cleared by the Cliff Railway (at no cost to the Council) and has allowed a structural survey of the wall to be carried out by Shropshire Council, which in turn led to a scope of works to be drawn up to make a suitable repair.
7. Shropshire Council have agreed to have oversight of the works and repair (for compliance) at no cost to the Town Council.
8. A quote has been provided by Shropshire Council through its standard procurement procedures and its preferred contractors list of £6096.24 to undertake the works.

DISCUSSION/ COMMENT

9. The works are considered essential, and the risk of harm will likely increase with time.
10. The topic was presented to the Town Council within the Outdoor and Properties Manager Report at its meeting on 1st June 2021. The Clerk provided a verbal explanation of some of the history of the issue (e.g. the works done to the wall by the now disbanded District Council, lack of clarity of ownership responsibility)

11. An engineering solution by a competent authority through a preferred contractor scheme has been identified.
12. The budget for Other Properties (Miscellaneous Repairs) – [Cost Centre 249 Nominal Ledger 4172] is insufficient to bear the cost of the quote.
13. The other likely players (Cliff Railway and Shropshire Council) have contributed significantly to the project to make the wall safe (Cliff Railway, paying for the vegetation clearance in February 2021; Shropshire Council in providing technical expertise, scoping of the repairs and oversight of delivery).

FINANCIALS

14. The appropriate budget for the proposed spend should be from Cost Centre 249 (Other Properties) Nominal Ledger (Repairs-Misc Properties) however, it was set at £3k. An increase in the budget of about £6k is required to undertake the works and leave some headroom for other works in the remainder of the financial year.

RECOMMENDATION(s)

15. It is recommended that the Town Council RESOLVES:
 - a. To approve the quote (£6096.24) provided by Shropshire Council to effect the repairs to the retaining wall on Stoneway Steps.
AND
 - b. To increase the budget for Cost Centre 249 Nominal Ledger 4172 from £3k to £9k



Lee Jakeman
Town Clerk