

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
21st JUNE 2022**

LJ/2022

Date: 10th June 2022

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 11 – WELCOME BACK FUND

AIM

1. *To inform Members of the works undertaken under the Welcome Back Fund*

BACKGROUND

2. July 2021 – Shropshire Council advise of Welcome Back Fund opportunity, £20,434.00 allocated for Bridgnorth – money to be spent by 31st March 2022.
3. Early August 2021 – initial list drawn up by officers, councillors asked to comment and list of works refined.
4. 13th August 2021 – Closing date for expressions of interest.
5. 13th August 2021 – Town Council proposed works submitted.
6. 20th October 2021 – Town site-visit to walk through areas/works proposed with Shropshire Council officers and contractor to assess scale and begin to cost proposed works.
7. 25th November 2021 – Quotes for works received via Shropshire Council (total cost £56,431 - £35k above grant allocation.
8. 9th December 2021 – Revised list (to fit within budget envelope of £20,434) submitted to Shropshire Council.
9. 11th February 2022 – Shropshire Council advise that a number of works previously planned (that include painting) cannot be completed prior to the closing date of 31st March 2022. Alternatives suggested and agreed.
10. Week of 14th February 2022 –Hospital walk pruning and road closure works carried out.
11. Week of 14th March 2022 - New Road and Underhill Street Cutting vegetation/ removal including road closure works carried out.

DISCUSSION/ COMMENT

12. The Town Council identified a number works that it considered as suitable priorities to be addressed via the funding afforded it by the Welcome back fund.
13. The cost of the works identified by the Town Council exceeded the funding available by circa £35k. The original list was revised to fit within the budget envelope
14. The revised list was agreed. However, due to the fact that works that could be supported by the Welcome Back Fund had to be completed before the 31st March 2022 all painting related jobs were unachievable (prevailing weather conditions on early spring). Of the original list only the pruning of hospital walk could be undertaken in the timescale. A further vegetation job was identified that could not be done by Town Council staff (due to it requiring access platforms/ working at heights and a significant road closure) – that being the clearing of the shrubs on New Road and Underhill Street.



Lee Jakeman
Town Clerk