

Clerks Report for Mere Town Council meeting 1.11.21

Agenda Item:

5b) Suggestions for expenditure of S.106 funding (Minute Ref: 63e) –

Following the discussion at last month's meeting & due to a miscommunication error, I can confirm that a second public consultation exercise was carried out via the Mere Mutters Facebook pages:

As a result of this, I have received some further suggestions as follows:

- Public Toilet for Recreation Ground
- Table-tennis tables
- Improving footpath from Clements Lane to Angel Lane (3 suggestions for this project)
- Planting trees and benches with a toddler park on southern part of cemetery
- Tree planting along White Road and other roads around Mere
- Improve the riverside area where The Meads cross the footbridge over Shreen Water to pass sewage works into Rook Street (repair bridge, clear banks, provide picnic tables and seating and improve surface so that cyclists and mobility scooters could use the route in preference to the road)
- "Men in sheds" room and workshop where the men of the town might be able to gather socially and to share expertise and tools.
- Create a Remembrance Meadow on the southern part of the cemetery.

5c) Issues with public toilets (Minute Ref: 67b)

I had a meeting with grounds staff and Clive at public toilets on 7th October. Since the last Town Council meeting Josh McCann (drain) had been in and cleared the problems with drainage in the ladies toilets. He has put a camera down the drains and confirmed that it is all clear down to the road and there are no obstructions and no broken pipes. He has also provided us with tools to enable us to lift the heavy manhole covers.

We then assessed the ladies toilets and the gents toilets with a view as to which block would be better to keep open as unisex toilets and decided that the ladies was a more pleasant option on the basis that it was lighter, didn't have nasty graffiti on the doors and would provide for four cubicles instead of 2. The main disadvantage is that the four toilets pans need replacing.

So...

- 1) We have power-washed the ladies toilets and got the tiles cleaner.
- 2) I have asked Wallgate to come and service the units and hopefully we will be able to get the unit in the ladies block working better.
- 3) I have asked Nugents to replace all four toilet pans in the ladies block.
- 4) I have asked Jeans to replace all the lighting in the ladies block and accessible toilet.

Still to do....

- 1) Get Sam to paint interior of ladies block, including ceiling and doors.
- 2) Get Sam to paint all outside doors & woodwork of whole toilet building.
- 3) Order signage
 - sign to go above door of disabled toilet to say Accessible Toilet
 - sign to go above gents that says "left arrow – accessible toilet – unisex toilets – right arrow"
 - sign above ladies toilet that says accessible toilet

4) Remove all old signs

6a) Report on meeting held on 23rd September 2021 to discuss Mere PPGs proposal for a new Health & Wellbeing facility in Mere (report attached)

9a) Mere School expansion plans and alterations to green amenity areas to make more car parking spaces & safer walking route. (Plans attached)

9c) Request to light steps from Salisbury Street Car Park to Dark Lane by Shreen Harmony members – I have received the following letter:

‘I am writing to you on behalf of the members of Shreen Harmony, the local Community Choir. Our rehearsals have restarted this Autumn in the refurbished URC Church. Many of our members use the surgery car park and for the past two weeks some of us have found it difficult to go down the steps into Dark Lane as they were so difficult to see. In fact, one member missed the last step and stumbled but luckily did not fall. We were wondering whether the steps could be lit in some way (both flights) as, when the clocks go back at the end of the month, this area will be in darkness much earlier when more people may be going to the surgery or using the lane to get to and from the Square. We would very much welcome an investigation into this hazard and hope that something can be done to avoid a possible accident.’

10a) Payment Schedule attached

11c) Briefing notes attached

12a) Wiltshire Council – Local Councils Climate Action Planning Seminar -

Wiltshire Council Climate Team would like to invite Local Councils in Wiltshire to a Local Councils Climate Action day on Tuesday 16th of November (10am - 4pm), for Councillors and Clerks of Parish, Town and City Councils run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

The day will cover:

- Local impacts of climate change;
- Action planning workshop - exploring what parish councils and communities can do to tackle climate change;
- Climate communications and engagement (with free resources);
- Working with other stakeholders.
- The day will be fantastic opportunity to both learn from each other what is already happening across Wiltshire and to plan together what needs to be done.

Due to concerns around the potential spread of coronavirus we have decided to run our action days online. Whilst it is often better to be able to do these events in person we are confident we can deliver a productive and inspiring event to you all. The event will be run through the online platform Hopin which enables good interaction for participants.