

Planning & Highways Committee

Tuesday 4 May 2021

Agenda Item 93

Replacement of street furniture and improvements to the raised beds on The Parade

1. Purpose of Report

To recommend that the Town Council funds the replacement of bins and benches and improvement to the green space along The Parade as an interim improvement to support the reopening of the Town Centre.

2. Recommendations

That Committee recommends to Full Council that it approves funding for the replacement of bins and benches and improvement to the green space along the Parade as outlined in this paper at a cost of £24,580 from Street furniture and Litter Bin budget.

3. Background

In August 2020, the Town Council endorsed a Masterplan for the regeneration of the Town Centre. Birmingham City Council will soon consider adopting the Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document. The Town Centre Regeneration Partnership recently considered a report that sets out the sequence of delivery for key projects as set out in the Masterplan and these plans propose a number of ambitious schemes to improve the public realm within the town centre. However, there is an urgent need to put in place short term intervention to improve the town centre as part of a package to support the reopening of shops and services. This report proposes that, as part of these measures, the Town Council considers funding the replacement of benches and bins along The Parade and improvement of the raised flower beds there.

Site inspections by Town Council Officers have confirmed that, having been in situ for at least 15 years, the benches and bins are past their expected useful life and have deteriorated to such an extent that they now need to be replaced. The six raised beds between The Parade and Lower Parade contain a hotchpotch of turf, some bedding plants, shrubs, trees and bare earth (see Appendix 1). Currently there are 15 benches and 22 bins of various types and sizes on The Parade between Knight's House and Nandos:

Item	Description	Number
Bench	Unknown manufacturer. Cast frame, painted wooden slats	9
Bench	Broxap 'Borth'. Metal frame, no arms, recycled plastic slats	3
Bench	Broxap 'Sturdy'. Metal frame, no arms, no backrest, recycled plastic slats	3
Bin	Broxap 'Derby E slimline' litter bin. Powder coated steel 90l	10
Bin	Broxap 'Derby Standard' litter bin. Powder coated steel 120l	11
Bin	Unknown manufacturer. Round plastic	1

4. Options

As noted above, the existing street furniture is manufactured from a wide range of materials and, for the benches, in a mishmash of styles. Although more modern styles in line with the ambitions set out in the masterplan were considered, in order to quickly progress short term improvements, it is recommended that the benches are replaced in an enhanced style of the better ones that are already in place and that the existing type and construction for the litter bins is maintained. See Appendix 2 for details of the recommended bench and bin. Points to note:

- This proposal would be an interim improvement to support the reopening of the Town Centre. When the town centre is redeveloped, if the new benches and bins are no longer required, they can be repurposed elsewhere in the town as their style and colour scheme – gloss black with gold accents – conforms to the previously agreed Sutton Coldfield palette and that of the conservation area.
- There are ten bins currently placed either side of the five benches at the southern end of The Parade. These 90l Broxap 'Derby E slimline' litter bins would be replaced these with six larger (120l) Broxap 'Derby Standard' litter bins placed between the benches rather next to as this will be more pleasant for people using the benches and there is little difference in overall capacity.
- The proposed bench and bin replacements will provide a subtle, attractive uplift for visitors to the town centre but would not be incongruous against a backdrop of a town centre which is on the way to being regenerated.
- As these works as will be on the Highway, it is recommended that BCC is commissioned to undertake the greenspace improvements and the bins and benches be installed by a supplier on the BCC Framework. The Council is able to adopt this approach under 11.3 of its Financial Regulations which state that 'some works, goods and services provided for/to the Town Council are within contracts approved by Birmingham City Council in its role as Principal/Statutory Authority..... In these cases, the Town Council cannot make its own procurement arrangements and financial regulation 11.1 [to put work out to contract] does not apply'. The benches and bins would be sourced directly by the Town Council from the manufacturer.
- The timescale for completion of this work if approved is around eight weeks (manufacture lead-in for the benches and bins is around six weeks).
- The proposals have been shared with relevant BCC officers.

5. Financial implications

The total cost for the works is just under £25k:

Item	Details	Cost ¹
Benches and bins	• Broxap 'Lakeside' bench. Black painted cast frame, Iroko wooden slats, RSCTC cast logo (15 no.) • Broxap 'Derby Standard' litter bin. 120l capacity. Gloss black powder coated steel with gold accents, laser cut RSCTC logo (17 no.)	£18,397.15
Raised beds	Jet washing walls and replanting of six raised beds	£6,183.00
Total		£24,580.15

6. Recommendations

That Committee recommends to Full Council that it approves funding for the replacement of bins and benches and improvement to the green space along the Parade as outlined in this paper at a cost of £24,580 from Street furniture and Litter Bin budget.

Mark Dixon
Programme Delivery Manager, Neighbourhoods

¹ Cost of benches and bins includes removal of old furniture and installation of new items.

Appendix 1: Existing benches, bins and raised beds

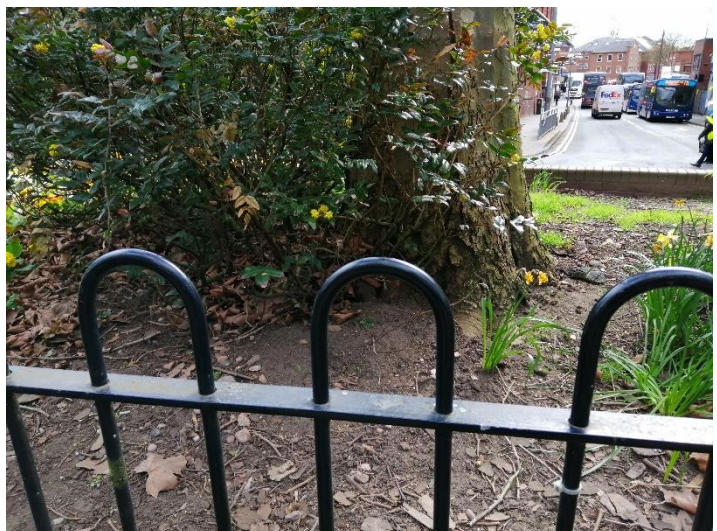
A typically dilapidated bench (this one is even missing a couple of slats):



The bins have deteriorated to such an extent that they now need to be replaced. This one is sited next to a bench on the southern end of The Parade:



Although there are some bedding plants, much of the greenspace is currently untidy shrubs and/or bare earth:



Appendix 2: Replacement bench and litter bin recommendations

The Broxap *Lakeside* bench has a black painted cast frame and Iroko wooden slats. It would incorporate a cast RSCTC logo on each side:



The Broxap *Derby Standard* is a large capacity, 120l litter bin with a front opening door. A laser cut Royal Sutton Coldfield Town logo would be incorporated as shown in these mock-ups:



Notes

1. The bins and the frames of the benches will be black with gold accents.
2. All items are manufactured to order and the current lead-in time is six weeks.