

Commemorative Street Furniture

At its May meeting, the Parish Council considered two suggestions for commemorative street furniture which it asked the Clerk to refer to the Estates Committee for consideration.

Fabrications North East contacted the parish council in the run up to VE75 with information about bespoke benches commemorating the end of the second world war. An example is illustrated below:



One option which might be considered is to site one (or more) within the cemetery, near the war memorial. There is currently £2856.00 in earmarked reserves for the Cemetery and Churchyard. Cllr Mary Evans has kindly indicated that it may be possible to contribute to this through locality funding.

To make the bench(s) more relevant to Wickhambrook, this could be considered as a joint project with the history society, asking them (and engaging with residents in the parish) to come up with a design unique to Wickhambrook and its history.

Quotations for a commemorative bench are set out below:

Supplier	Cost	Notes
Fabrications Northeast	£900 plus VAT	£80 plus VAT delivery

The Council's financial regulations require that when entering into contracts for the supply of goods, materials or specialist services (other than those excepted under 11.1.a), the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates where the value is below £3,000. The Clerk has not been able to find a comparable style of commemorative bench in this instance.

The second proposal for consideration is to fabricate a large-scale willow heart, to be displayed in the village as a commemoration of the Coronavirus Pandemic this year, and Wickhambrook's response to it. This suggestion has come from one of our Councillors, who reported that a lady in the village anonymously prepared a willow heart every day for 70 days, and placed them on people's homes, to provide a morale boost during lockdown.



The proposal is to fabricate a metal replica and have it galvanised and painted, and fix it to the post supporting the village sign, to identify 2020 as being a unique. The parish council has powers under s72 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to provide or contribute to the cost of traffic signs indicating...the name of the parish or community. Wickhambrook already has such a sign in place, and I have not been able to find any prohibition on adding to that sign.

There are funds in earmarked reserves for highways (£2,750 as at 1 April 2020), or the parish council could be asked to fund this from general reserves.

Quotes have been sought for the fabrication of the willow heart and will be reported back to the next meeting.

Recommendation

The committee authorise the purchase of a Memorial Bench to commemorate VE75, to a design to be agreed between the Estates Committee and the Wickhambrook History Society, at a cost of £980 plus VAT (including delivery).