

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Trustee Committee

DATE: 29th November 2021

CONTACT OFFICER: Gerald Pleace
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875566

WARD(S): Elliman Ward

PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

BAYLIS WAR MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

The Committee is requested to note information regarding the current situation with the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid for funding for the wider Baylis Park refurbishment works which will include the Memorial Garden.

2. **Recommendations**

That the current situation with the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid be noted.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Whilst the Council's Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities are relevant the Committee's primary duties are to consider the best interests of the Trust and not the Council's strategic priorities. If there is a conflict between the best interests of the Trust and those of the Council, the interests of the Trust must prevail.

Improving mental health and wellbeing is a key priority of the Joint Wellbeing Strategy. The benefits of parks and open spaces, for health and wellbeing are now well established. The proposed improvements the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid would make the park and memorial garden more attractive and encourage more use and activity in the park.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Whilst the Council's Five Year Plan outcomes are relevant, the Committee's primary duties are to consider the best interests of the Trust and not the Council's strategic priorities. If there is a conflict between the best interests of the Trust and those of the Council, the interests of the Trust must prevail.

Outcome 3 of the Five Year Plan 2019-24 states that "Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay". The proposed works would ensure that the visual appeal of the public realm is enhanced.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

At this stage there is no financial implication to the Trust unless Trustees wish to proceed with improvements using allocated funds.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
Bid not successful	No improvements to the park and memorial garden may over time reduce attractiveness and use.	None	High	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications in regard to the proposed project.

The Trust Deed relating to this trust obliges the Trustees to maintain protect and repair the land and the War Memorial Garden as laid out. The Trust deed also obliges the Trustees to observe and perform the covenants affecting the trust land set out in the Trust Deed and the Trustees must therefore ensure that the terms of those covenants are not breached and that provision is made in the Trust's finances for any costs associated with such covenants.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The park and war memorial is open and free to all to use and enjoy. The proposed works would enhance the area and make it safer and more attractive to all residents. There are no equalities issues identified with the planned improvements.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The proposed refurbishment of this area resulted from a request made by a trustee and local ward councillor.

5.2 Previously, SBC officers had been successful in gaining permission from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to work up and submit a stage one application for the restoration of areas of Baylis Park. At a site meeting with representatives from the National Lottery Heritage Fund the war memorial garden was visited and it was recommended that the council included this as part of its proposal for restoration.

- 5.3 Since this stage, the National Lottery Heritage Fund has withdrawn the offer to progress to stage one as priorities for funding have changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.4 The Council has been invited to re-apply at the first stage with a revised bid that takes into account the fund's new priorities. These priorities are local business, skills health and wellbeing.
- 5.5 The finance team are currently reviewing the Council's capital programme and future year budgets. In light of the Section 114 notice and the Council's financial position, the match funding required as part of the terms of the National Lottery Heritage Fund application is unlikely to be available from the Council's budgets. Without match funding an application cannot proceed.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This matter has not been considered by other committees.

7. **Conclusion**

- 7.1 In absence of available match funding to support a stage one bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for improvements to Baylis Park, Trustees resolve to note the memorial and surrounding landscape to remain as is until further clarifications on budgets are known later this year. There may be an option to carry out localised works using allocated trust funds.

Normal planned maintenance to the area will continue.

8. **Background Papers**

None