

**To receive a report on mental health plaques and consider any actions and associated expenditure.**

Services held on 10.12.23 Minute Nr. 89/23/24

It was proposed by Councillor Gillies, seconded by Councillor Bickford and **RESOLVED**;

1. To approve the procurement of five Happy to Chat Plaques at a total cost of £47.50+vat to be allocated to budget code 6504 Street Furniture (Maintenance) to be installed at Victoria Gardens, Waterside, Longstone Park, Memorial Peace Garden and Cornish Cross, subject to permissions being obtained as required;
2. To approve expenditure of £90+vat for a Health and Wellbeing website page to be created and allocate to budget code 6211 Website Maintenance.

Overview

Cornwall Council confirmed they would not give permission for plaques to be mounted on their benches for the following reasons:

- Concerns regarding confusing the public as to the owner of the bench;
- Concerned about vandalism of the plaques and who would be responsible for the repair to the bench if that occurred;
- Size of the plaque being larger than the slats on some benches causing an overhang.

Cornwall Council recommend the plaques be installed, flush mounted to a bench, in Victoria Gardens and the Memorial Peace Gardens on a six month trial period, subject to the Agreement and Lease for both sites being signed by Saltash TC. Victoria Gardens Lease is yet to be considered by the Town Council solicitor.

After the six month trial, the effectiveness including any design and practical issues would need to be evaluated by Cornwall Council. Unfortunately, there is no way of measuring the entire success of the project due to stats not being available on the Town Council website. Saltash Town Council could fall foul of the trial agreement and benches left with holes / paint removed.

**Please note;** the Memorial Peace Garden benches are metal therefore flush mounted installation cannot take place at that location.

Next Step

Members are asked to consider withdrawing from the project due to lack of permissions and available stats.

**End of report**

**Receptionist/Mayor's Secretary**