

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.

Services held on 08.02.2024 Minute Nr. 135/23/24

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

1. To respond to Cornwall Council to find a suitable way forward to bring this project to fruition.

Overview

In February 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 were asked to reconsider their position. They have confirmed that they will not change their position regarding installing plaques on benches they own and/or maintain. Further to this if the Town Council wish to attach plaques to benches owned by Cornwall Council and do not wish to undertake a trial the Town Council will need to fully adopt these benches before any installation of plaques.

Currently 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.

Benches that are owned and maintained by Saltash Town Council that could be considered are located at:

- Planted area at the bottom of Fore Street, located outside the new Banking Hub building
- Picnic benches located at the Waterside, adjacent to Jubilee Green.

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

The associated cost remains the same as at 10.12.23.

Next Step

Members are asked to consider the following options;

- Withdrawing from the project due to lack of permissions and available stats.
- Pausing the project until the Town Council website can provided meaningful stats.
- Proceeding with the Town Council owned benches recognising that no stats will be available to determine whether the plaques are used by the community.

End of report

Receptionist/Mayor's Secretary