

## Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 January 2013</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Millennium Circle</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	<b>To support the purchase of a seated planter</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Rob Goss, Project Officer</b>

### Background

In 1999 a circular paved area was constructed in the High Street to mark the Millennium. This has been a success in respect of giving this area of the High Street an identity similar to the Butter Market, or Swan Walk.



When the area was first opened a statue or item of street furniture was considered. At the time budget did not allow for this to be purchased.

Since the enforcement of parking regulations has decreased there has been a marked increase in the number of people using this paved area for parking. This is both spoiling the town environment and starting to damage the paving.

One of the points raised in the Miller Report (2010) was that there were some key messages that needed to be taken into account to enhance the visitor experience in furthering Thame as a shopping and visitor destination. Regarding the quality of the town centre environment it concluded that the main town centre area lacks places to sit and dwell. Traffic dominates the experience with no sense of having the opportunity to relax.

Considering both the parking problem and the message from the Millar Report, this report proposes that a new piece of street furniture be purchased to enhance and attract people to this area of the town and ultimately stop people illegally parking on the area.

### Circular Planter

It is recommended that a circular planter with seating around the outer perimeter be purchased. Being circular it will fit within the existing circular paved ring, and will be less prone for use by skate boarders.

The unit is supplied fully assembled, and the planter is fully lined ready for filling and planting.

**Resource Appraisal**

<b>Details</b>			
Overall diameter including bench to be 2.4m (Inside circular paving ring is 3.2m). Planter size only – 1.5m diameter x 0.8m high (for tree if required). Tree anchor fixing points included fitted into planters. Bench width approximately 0.4m			
<b>Capital</b>			
<b>Option A</b> Planter and bench surround in FSC Iroko hardwood (40 year lifespan)	£4500	£465	£4695
<b>Option B</b> Planter and bench surround in FSC European Redwood (30+ lifespan image attached)	£3115	£465	£3580
<b>Option C</b> Planter in FSC Redwood and bench in FSC Iroko hardwood N.B. (£465 includes delivery, watering system and soil)	£3780	£465	£4245
<b>Revenue</b>			
Annual cost for varnishing, planting and watering			£200

The proposal is that Option B would fit the requirements and is also the lowest in cost. Funding may be available through the next round of the district council’s Market Towns Fund or if Members are in agreement, sponsorship could be sought from local businesses. If neither were successful it would require an approval from Full Council for funding from the Capital Revenue budget.

**Risk Assessment**

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Controls</b>
<i>Vandalism</i>	<i>The circular shape does not lend itself to skateboarding and is not suitable to lie on. Any graffiti can be removed by sanding out. The existing planters placed in the Town in 2011 have had one instance of vandalism.</i>
<i>Item is static and therefore cannot be moved for Town events.</i>	<i>Inform all organisations that have previously used this space of the change in space available.</i>

**Legal Powers:** The Local Government Act 1972 – Section 144 Power to attract visitors and tourists.

**The Committee is recommended:**

- i) To agree to a circular planter being installed on the Millennium Circle.**
- ii) To decide whether sponsorship should be sought.**
- iii) To recommend to Full Council that if funding is not available from others sources that the planter be funded from the Capital Revenue Budget.**