

Planning & Environment Committee

Report Title:	St Joseph's Church and School Signage
Meeting Date:	9 November 2021
Contact Officer:	Julian Blake, Community Project Support Officer Cassie Pinnells, Acting Town Clerk

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the project to replace signage for St Joseph's Church and School.

Background

1. This project was initiated by St Joseph's particularly to direct vehicular traffic via Southern Road / Mitchell Close rather than Brook Lane.
2. A final specification to improve directional signage at St Joseph's Church and School Signage had been agreed by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) in July 2019, following progress made by the Market Town Co-Ordinator and the then Town Clerk. The cost had been calculated as £965.91 +VAT with the Town Council agreeing to cover £500 of that from its Localism Fund and the remainder being funded by St Joseph's. This was reported to this committee on 23 July 2019.
3. In September 2021 the Acting Town Clerk contacted OCC to identify the current status of the project. OCC advised that agreement would need to be obtained / re-confirmed from St Joseph's and the properties either side of Brook Lane.
4. Officers have investigated and it has been agreed with St Joseph's that the 'old' 'Catholic Church pedestrian signage will not be replaced at Brook Lane (on the buildings of 42 and 43-44 High Street), due to a combination of St Joseph's belief that the improved traffic signage would divert current traffic from the pedestrian route in Brook Lane as well as a lack of support/enthusiasm for changes from the current building owners. However new signage is to be installed on:
 - Southern Road on the footway at the junction with the High Street
 - High Street at Southern Road junction on the roundabout
 - Southern Road at Mitchell Close junction

Resource Appraisal

5. OCC have now committed to fund 50% of the costs. St Joseph's have confirmed they will fund the remaining 50%. The Town Council will facilitate this by seeking a donation from St Joseph's once the costs have been established, but there will be no other financial implications other than Officer time.

Recommendation:

- To note the report.***