

Policy and Resources Committee

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| Title: | Thame Museum |
| Date: | 14 February 2023 |
| Contact Officer: | Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager Andrea Oughton, Operations Manager |

Purpose of Report

1. To approve a request from the U3A to place a “Talking Bench” at the Thame Museum.

Background

2. The Chairperson of the U3A has approached the Museum with a request to place a “Talking Bench” (see image below of an example bench) in front of the Museum to commemorate their organisation’s 40th anniversary (in 2022) and the collaboration with the Museum.
3. The Museum Trustees support this request and suggested location. If the preferred location of the bench is to be placed between the stone planters close to the main Museum door, there should be a condition that the bench is relocated prior to the commencement of construction work associated with the proposed extension.
4. If approval is given, the terms and conditions outlined in the Town Council’s Memorial Benches, Trees & Shrubs Policy will be used for this request, this includes agreement of a second preferred location.

Resource Appraisal

5. All costs involved with the purchase and installation of the bench would be covered by the U3A.

Risk Assessment

6. Under the terms of the Memorial Benches, Trees & Shrubs Policy the Council will procure the bench, include it within their maintenance programme and insure it for 10 years (the life of the bench).
7. If the bench is vandalised or is the cause of anti-social behaviour it should be removed. The preferred location would be under the surveillance of the Town Centre CCTV system.

Legal Powers

- Localism Act 2011, ss. 1-8, General Power of Competence.
- Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1, Power to provide roadside seats and shelters.

Recommendation:

The committee is asked:

- To consider the request to install a “Talking Bench” at the front of the Museum, on the condition that the bench is relocated prior to commencement of construction work associated with the approved extension.***

Preferred location:



Example bench:

