

Open Spaces Sub Committee

Title:	Water Refill Station Project
Date:	23 October 2023
Contact Officer:	Andrea Oughton, Operations Manager

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide information on a project to install water refill stations, commencing with an installation at the Town Hall.

Background

2. Water refill stations are becoming a common sight in many public places, schools, universities and workplaces. Installing a water refill station provides easy access to safe, clean filtered drinking water, allowing everyone to refill bottles when they are on the go.
3. Bottle filling stations help drive a change in our behaviour, choosing an alternative to single-use plastic. According to data supplied by a leading manufacturer of refill stations, 15 billion fewer single-use plastic bottles are used globally and for every bottle free unit installed 1,440 single bottles are saved from waste.
4. Good hydration is associated with increased energy levels and better health. Provision of easy access to drinking water is the best way to promote a healthy habit of keeping hydrated and drinking less fizzy drinks.

Project

5. To install a water refill station on the exterior of the Town Hall on the wall facing Boots in the High Street subject to Listed Building and Conservation Area planning consent. The location provides easy access to drainage and water from within the Town Hall.

Below is an example of the proposed refill station:



6. The cost of the water station, delivery and installation is £2,620.00. There is an annual maintenance contract at £175.00 which includes legionella testing, servicing and replacement filters.
7. The refill station provides an area for a sponsor's name and logo. It is intended to seek sponsorship to cover the cost of the annual maintenance contract and contribution to offset the water charge.
8. The aim is to install the water refill station in January 2024, the start of the 50th anniversary celebrations. A second free standing water refill station is planned in Elms Park as part of the planned refurbishment.

Legal Powers:

Public Health Act 1875 s164; Public Health Acts: Amendment Act 1890 s44, General Power of Competence.

Recommendation:

- i) To approve the purchase and installation of a water refill station at the Town Hall (subject to planning approval) at a cost of £2,620.00 to be funded from the Capital Rolling Fund.***