

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Town Centres
2.	Date:	10th January, 2011
3.	Title:	Boots Fountain, Howard Street, Rotherham - Remedial Works Ward 2 Boston Castle
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

The fountain at the junction of Howard Street and Effingham Street, known as the Boots fountain, is in need of repair. It attracts litter and some members of the public have taken to swimming in it during hot weather. Yorkshire Water have issued the Council with a notice under Section 75 of the Water Industry Act to repair a leak in the water supply.

It is proposed to remove the fountain and pave the area it previously covered. The existing benches will be re-used and re-positioned.

6. Recommendations

It be resolved that:

The following works be implemented

The existing fountain is removed and the affected area is re-paved.

7. Proposals and Details

Background

This water feature, outside Boots Chemists on Howard Street, is in need of significant repair and has a leak in the water supply pipeline. In addition to the leak in the supply, the water pump needs replacing and the wet well is leaking and also requires repair. The planting beds are of poor quality having been compacted and damaged by people sitting/walking on them. The Council has been served by Yorkshire Water with a notice under Section 75 of the Water Industry Act to repair the leak.

The fountain has been the subject of a previous report to a joint meeting of Streetpride Services and Regeneration and Development Services on 21st April, 2008. The recommendation to drain the fountain and implement a landscaping scheme was approved. Subsequently, the scheme was discussed at a Town Centre Strategy meeting and it was considered that additional funding may be identified which would allow a more comprehensive redevelopment of the immediate area. The scheme was held in abeyance whilst the potential of a larger redevelopment of the area was explored further.

This summer, as part of the new government's in-year cuts, the potential additional funding from the LAA Reward Grant was lost which effectively precludes a more comprehensive scheme. The available funding is thus limited solely to an allocation of £50,000 within the Council's Minor Strategic Capital programme.

Further consideration has been given to an appropriate solution to the problems associated with the fountain and it is considered that its removal would be the most effective course of action. The footprint of the fountain structure would be paved in a manner to blend in with the existing surrounding paving and the potential of new seating would be considered if costs could be contained within the sum available. The possibility of installing removable seating, which would enable a greater area of the paving to be used for events etc, would be investigated.

It is anticipated that the scheme being proposed would be contained within the funding available.

The scheme would remove the risk of enforcement action by Yorkshire water, remove the rather tired planting, provide additional quality paving which may be used for Town Centre events/stalls etc. It would also reduce the ongoing maintenance liability of the area to a minimum. This latter issue of maintenance is considered to be of particular relevance when the Council is facing significant and sustained pressures on its finances.

Proposal

Minute number 12, from the meeting of 20th September, 2010, for the Cabinet Member for Town Centres confirmed that the fountain be removed, a paving scheme be developed, and that seating be provided if funds were available. It also asked that a scheme be brought to a future meeting.

The scheme proposed uses new concrete paving to match the existing, natural colour, to infill the fountain footprint. Slight amendments to the footprint will be made to make the

shape more regular, and a small area of blue blocks will be laid to match existing to effectively 'frame' the new footprint. Existing benches will be repainted and re-used. Exact location of benches may vary to provide a more open area. See attached plan 'Appendix A'. Installation will be in February / March 2011.

8. Finance

No issues other than those noted in Section 7 above.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

If no remedial action is taken to repair the leaking water main, Yorkshire Water will take enforcement action against the Council.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This matter relates to the corporate themes of Rotherham Safe and Rotherham Proud.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation

Consultation has previously taken place with the Town Centre Management Team on previous scheme proposals and this will be refreshed to agree a time to carry out the currently proposed work to minimise disruption to the Town Centre.

Background Papers

YW notice under Section 75 of the Water Industry Act

Report to Cabinet Members for Streetpride Services and Regeneration and Development Services on 21 April 2008

Report to Cabinet Member for Town Centre on 20 September 2010

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