

AGENDA ITEM

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Moorlands Partnership Board
13 March 2019**

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| TITLE: | Current Status of Projects |
| OFFICER: | Executive Director |

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the report is noted.

2. Summary

2.1 This report deals with progress to date on those projects, awaiting commencement, on site or, completed since the last meeting of the Moorlands Partnership Board.

2.2 This report is for information but it does offer Members an opportunity to comment on progress.

3 Background and Detail

Projects Update

2015/16 OFFERS

Gazebo, Whitehough, Ipstones

Doors to be installed during the spring/summer.

2016/17 OFFERS

67 Tape Street, Cheadle

Works delayed and will not commence until Oct 2019. At a previous meeting the board agreed to honour an extension to the grant offer to meet this date.

The Trough – Biddulph

Awaiting commencement

2017/2018 OFFERS

Leekbrook to Leek (Cornhill) heritage rail link

Moorlands Partnership board allocated £22,000 towards bringing forward the heritage railway to Leek. To date, £28,626 has been spent on project development including planning permission, legal advice & fees associated with the cost of land transfer (the balance of funds coming from the regeneration revenue budget). The planning application has been approved, an expression of interest to co-fund the construction has been invited to full application (EAFRD – European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The signing of the Lease agreements is expected to take place by end of February 2019 (following approval by SMDC cabinet in December 2018). The full cost for construction of the line is circa £810,000. There is an 18-month construction period that would only commence once funding is confirmed.

There is an option to physically start constructing 200 meters of track in April 2019. This would run from Leekbrook Station northwards. Churnett Valley Railway can fund £21,000 and are seeking funding of £19,000 from the MPB to complete these works. This grant request is subject to a separate funding application report.

Cheddleton Station

Tenders have now been returned for the completion of the works to repair Cheddleton Station. However works can not start on site until a bat survey has been completed in May 2019.

Funerary Monuments

Faculty approval has now been gained for the repair of the following monuments. Works will commence shortly and will be supervised by a conservation architect.

5 Chest Tombs at Church of All Saints, Dilhorne
4 Chest tombs at Church of All Saints, Dilhorne
Prince Memorial Church of St Leonard, Ipstones
Yates Memorial, Endon

There are sufficient funds to repair the above monuments and Endon Parish Council have also agreed to make a £250 contribution towards the repair of the Yates Memorial in Endon.

However there are a further 7 listed memorials that are on the buildings at risk register. The cost to repair the additional monuments would be £9,076. Officers have confirmed that a further £1,000 can be allocated towards the additional work from the closed cemeteries budget for 2019/2020.

Biddulph Town Council Projects

Railings A57 – Deposit paid to Ironage Designs.

Gillow Heath Station - A small working group has been formed, and this has turned into a four phase project. Stage one will be moving the fence on the District Council land and installation of benches. Stage two would be restoring the edge of the platform. Stage three is the installation of signage and interpretation boards. Stage four is to repair the nearby footbridge, constructed using the old rails, which is one of only two in the country, the other being at Rudyard Lake.

Well at Tower Hill Road - Being kept tidy by the lengthman. Hopefully complete before the end of the year.

Biddulph Grange

Works to the leat are complete and paid and interpretation panels (3) will be installed shortly.

Cattle Market Cottage, Leek

The property has now been sold and the grant withdrawn.

Foxlowe, Leek

The accredited conservation architect has now completed the specification of works for builders to tender against. It is hoped works will commence this spring/summer.

Big Mill, Leek

MPB has offered a grant of £20,000 to undertake emergency roof repairs to Big Mill. This consisted of:

- Erecting scaffolding to the rear of the building and safety handrail to the perimeter of the roof parapet wall and;
- placing pre-made bespoke tarpaulin over the slated roof and fixed via straps and through the windows to sound anchor points inside the building.

The scaffolding and the handrail has ben installed and the tarpaulin sheets manufactured. However, recent discussions with the owner and conservation officer has revealed that the sheeting cannot be installed, as they have no way of fixing it over the parapets and cannot work outside of these for health and safety reasons. The conservation officer is waiting a revised specification but they are indicating that they propose to board over the lower sections of the roof up to the parapet and then asphalt over the whole roof.

This is a less than satisfactory response. However, after discussion with the conservation officer we cannot see that there is an alternative option that will urgently achieve the aim of keeping the building water tight.

Victoria Buildings, Leek

At the last meeting, the MPB set aside £20,000 for the repair of the building which is in 4 separate ownerships. The cost to repair the building is around £52,459 but this figure does not include preliminaries, contingencies, fees or VAT. The likely final figure could be around £90,000. Officers have contacted all the owners requesting a grant application. Whilst a number of owners have expressed an interest in applying for the grant, at the time of writing the report no grant applications have been submitted.

4 Implications

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| 4.1 | Community Safety: | Nil |
| 4.2 | Workforce: | Nil |
| 4.3 | Equality and Diversity: | This report has been compiled in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies. |
| 4.4 | Financial Considerations | This report deals with those projects for which funding has already been allocated. |
| 4.5 | Legal: | Nil |
| 4.6 | Sustainability: | The repair and reuse of historic buildings is an important sustainability objective. |

Dai Lerner **Executive Director**

Background Papers

Project Applications
File 6366

Location

Regeneration Service

Contact

Jo Brooks
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Decision:

Reason:

Interests Declared: