

SKEGNESS TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COUNCIL 24TH MAY 2023
BY: TOWN CLERK
SUBJECT: Tower Gardens Project

PURPOSE:

- To review, comment and approve the outline design for stage 1 (funded by the Towns Fund) and the overall masterplan.
- To authorise the Town Clerk to start the process of seeking and applying for grant funding for unfunded phases.

1 DESIGN AND CONSULTATION

- 1.1 Following surveys and site visits a Masterplan design has been produced for Tower Gardens. This breaks down the design into distinct phases of work. Phase 1 is to be funded through the Towns Fund to a value of £500,000. Other phases are as yet unfunded. The designs will be shown on the screen at Council, but a copy of the latest iteration has been included in the Appendix to this report.
- 1.2 When preparing the designs, the designers have considered the historic and listed context of the gardens, those elements which Council has set out in the initial funding bid as being important, results from surveys and of course the budget available.
- 1.3 The consultation stage is running until the end of June and the designers will continue to take on board comments. However, Council need to confirm that they are happy with the design so that this can start to be firmed up ready for the detailed design to be started from the beginning of July. The designers will continue to consider feedback during the consultation and this will influence the more detailed design within the framework of the budget and general considerations.

2 PHASES OF THE MASTERPLAN.

- 2.1 All phases are subject to detail design and so elements here for unfunded stages are indicative only. More discussions will be needed with the contractors to understand the likely budget costs beyond phase 1. The order below does not represent the order in which any funds will be sought or the order the work would be undertaken.

2.2 Phase 1 (funded)

- Pond – cleaning, repair, reinstatement of cascade including repair or replacement of pumps together with some improvements to rockery, repair to wooden edges where decayed, painting of railings around pond repairing handrails as required and some associated planting around pond.
- Paths around pond as highlighted – repair and resurfacing as required
- Feature sensory planting around bandstand which will also fulfil the role of being the culmination of a future aspirational heritage phase.

2.3 Heritage Phase (unfunded)

- Heritage and sensory trail – trail which has information points (perhaps also QR codes or similar leading to website/audio description), some sensory elements (perhaps tactile graphics and/or some noise producing features).
- Sensory planting at key points on heritage trail.
- Heritage planting to borders with a view to include some of the ironwork from old pavilion either as plant support, pergola or other feature in a suitable location.

2.4 Accessible Play Phase (unfunded)

- Extending play area to include accessible play elements
- Minor repair works to existing play area so that the whole area looks refreshed and part of a cohesive play scheme

2.5 Paths, Entrances and Other Works Phase (unfunded)

- Remaining paths to be assessed and repaired as required
- Entrance to Lumley Rd (alleyway) to be improved and made more welcome to fit in with the Town Centre plans.
- Steps near entrance from Grand Parade to be improved with visible edging and repaired hand rails
- Repainting of railings around gardens including any minor repairs
- Repainting of band stand and covered seating including any minor repairs
- Additional lighting to improve safety.

3 NEXT STEPS

3.1 Technical Design for Phase 1 will start at the end of June with this completing in August. From this point the main contractor will tender the works and following this we will be in discussion to ensure costs are within the available budget. Once the costs are agreed contracts will be finalised with a view to starting work in the autumn.

3.2 In parallel to this we can start to get indicative costs for the other phases and also start to look for potential suitable grant providers or how else the work might be funded.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Council:-
 - 4.1.1 Approve the Masterplan and the outline design for Phase 1.
 - 4.1.2 Authorise the Town Clerk to establish outline costs for future phases and to identify potential grant funders submitting any initial expression of interest in funding.
 - 4.1.3 Progress with funding to be brought back to Council or Management Committee.

For information relating to this report please contact
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Background papers – None.

FOR DECISION