

# **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 14th JANUARY 2020**

## **ITEM NO: 14 – Parish Benches - Phase 1 Update for Decision**

### **Pricing and Selection of Supplies / Installation**

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#### **Information**

The work programme is now being finalised.

Checks with NFNPA have now been done and there are no objections to installation of plastic benches.

In this phase, no benches are being relocated and thus no Highways approval is needed.

#### **Survey Recap – Phase 1 2019-2020**

In the November 2018 report to the Parish Council it was agreed to focus, in year 1 (2019-2020), on the following:

- Parish Hall benches – replacement with recycled plastic benches
- Pollards Moor / Romsey Road crossroads bench – replace timber and refurbish cast iron ends and
- White Hart bench - to be partially replaced with refurbished fittings from the current bench at the top of New Inn Road plus new timber.

In addition, to include the provision of a new memorial bench at the top of New Inn Road supplied via a donation to the Parish Council – this is cost-neutral to the Parish Council as all purchase and installation costs will be met via the donation.

#### **Costs**

Costs have been sought from suppliers for both the replacement plastic benches and also the replacement timber slats and oil for treatment. Costs for shot blasting and powder coating are estimated from our most local supplier. Costs for bolts and nuts are approximated owing to the 'unknown' issues involved in removing the existing bolts. Therefore, it is assumed that all fixings are new, in stainless steel, but lengths etc are to be determined once new timber is ready for installation.

We have also set aside some small amount of funds from the budget to allow for a contractor to be used where there are difficulties in removing existing benches requiring specialist equipment.

#### ***Plastic Benches***

Criteria for selection were;

1. A traditional style 1800mm bench with arms in a brown finish in keeping with the location – many plastic benches are highly stylised in appearance.
2. Total price (for two benches) and value for money including delivery costs and additional items such as fixings
3. Experienced supplier to Councils
4. Warranty period on materials.

It's worth noting that while there are many suppliers of recycled plastic benches, very few include a 'traditional style bench', with most being very / highly stylised. A total of 3 suppliers of more traditionally styled benches were identified from which prices were gained.

#### ***Replacement timber slats***

There were very few specialists supplying finished hardwood timber slats for benches which were fully machined with pencil moulded edges and on variable sizes. Three were identified from whom estimates have been obtained. Most general timber yards were unable/ unwilling to quote. (Note that the original suggested timber – Balau – cannot be supplied in widths greater than 60mm based on sawn stock. Therefore this has not been quoted for in refurbishment requirements.)

See tables below for the assessment.

### Plastic Benches

Supplier	Bench	Total Price x 2 benches ex Vat inc. fittings	Delivery	Warranty (materials)	Comment	Image
1	The Dale	£928.26	Free	15 years	Very popular bench for Councils – many shown in track record of supply. Longest warranty. Soft / hard ground fixing	
2	The Ilkley	£825.00	Inc.	5 years	Less traditional than other 2 with 'lighter' construction but still a popular bench. Shortest warranty. Soft ground fixing	
3	The Elwood	£1,275.53	Inc.	10 years	Very similar to The Dale. Popular with Councils. Med. Warranty. More expensive. Soft / hard ground fixing	

### Timber Slats (Certified = guaranteed from sustainable sourcing)

Supplier	Price for refurbishing 2 benches ex VAT	Delivery	Timber	Comment	Finish
1	£494.85	Delivered	Sapele (certified FSC)	Sapele is hardwood but will require regular updated oiling every 2-3 years	Complete but requires pencil moulding on edges. Ready to oil
2	£579.40	Delivered	European Oak (certified FSC)	Euro Oak is well seasoned and requires less frequent oiling – around every 5 years	Complete inc. pencil moulding and ready to oil
3	£448.26	Collect only (East S'oton)	Iroko (not certified)	Iroko similar to Sapele – requires regular updated oiling (every 2-3 years)	Complete inc. pencil moulding and ready to oil

### Finishing for Timber Slats

In all cases, the recommended finishing suggested by suppliers is a UV protection exterior oil –Osmo UV Protection Oil Extra – 2.5 litres approx. **£64.00 ex VAT** - spot price from market search (Sufficient for several coats and for further use in Phase 2.)

### Bolts etc / sundries

Stainless Steel nuts and bolts – requisite number including washers **£33.00 ex VAT**

### **Shot blasting and powder coating**

Specimen price from local contractor based on photo of one bench end - **£45.00 2 pairs ex VAT**

#### Recommendations

1. **Plastic Benches** - Based on the above pricing plus assessment of the value for money (design / durability, warranty, quality, delivery etc), it is recommended that **Dale benches** are procured from **Supplier 1**.
2. **Timber Slats**– based on the durability of the provided timber, delivery, forward maintenance requirement and finishing of the timber, it is recommended that the **European Oak** is procured from **Supplier 2**.
3. **The oil and bolts** – are available from several suppliers and costs shown are indicative at a total of **£97.00**
4. **Shot-blasting and coating** – is from our most local supplier and costs are in line with market norms at **£45.00**

**TOTAL FOR PHASE 1 BENCHES, TIMBER, METAL REFURBISHMENT, OIL, FIXINGS: £1,649.66 ex VAT**

NOTE 1: It is proposed that the balance of approximately £250 available within the £1,900 2019-2020 budget allocation is held for any specialist installation support required. The same approved contractor as is being used for the works on the village signs has been approached to review what is involved. This may well only involve the 'release' of the old bench ends and their replacement once shot-blasted and coated.

NOTE 2: It is proposed that, as a local government body, it is important that we demonstrate our awareness of sustainability and only purchase certified FSC timber for our works on the benches.

NOTE 3: As previously stated, the purchase and installation of the new memorial bench at the top of New Inn Road is cost-neutral to the Parish Council as it is being supported with a donation.

NOTE 4: It is proposed that all deliveries are deferred until the beginning of March 2020 as weather forecasts for January and February are not favourable. The plastic benches have a lead time of 8 weeks.

Simon Lucas