

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Community Advisory Committee
Meeting date	1 March 2022
Report author	Nigel Warner
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NOTICEBOARDS

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To review the provision of noticeboards in the town's Market Place and bus shelters.

2. **Summary**

- 2.1 Following a request from the Chair, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, the committee is requested to consider an alternative siting for the noticeboard which was previously agreed in relation to the Market Place.

3. **Action required**

- 3.1 To consider whether to proceed with the noticeboard on the wall adjacent to the property on the southeast of the Bury (Market Place) or whether to purchase and install a noticeboard in the northeast of the Bury, located where the BT public payphone was sited. As usual, with the committee meeting virtually, this will require a recommendation to the town council.
- 3.2 To note that under delegated powers your officers intend to replace the noticeboards in three bus shelters which are not fit for purpose.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

- 4.1 Provision of new noticeboards does not feature in the Forward Plan but is part of the council's Communications Strategy and as part of a strong communications drive directly supports the following key objectives:

KO2 To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.

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KO3 To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

4.2 Noticeboards can as part of the communications strategy assist in meeting the following key objectives:

KO1 To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.

KO4 To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

5. **Background**

5.1 A noticeboard was a feature of the Market Place for a number of years, accommodating both council and community notices. Since approx. 2004 it was situated in a freestanding board backing directly onto the wall of the building on the southeast corner of the Market Place, occupied by Idlewild, until it was removed following vandalism and storm damage. Note this noticeboard was always freestanding rather than being attached to the third-party property.

5.2 Prior to 2019 the council chose not to replace the noticeboard but its replacement was actively considered by the current council until matters were held in abeyance when the pandemic commenced in March 2020.

5.3 At the meeting of this Committee in November 2020 it is noted that "the Communications Review Working Group recommended to the Community Services Committee on 1 June 2021 that the Market Place Noticeboard which had originally been located on the wall of the building next to the Market Place flower bed be replaced. The committee considered this recommendation, which was recorded as an action for this committee." This recommendation was agreed by the Town Council in December 2021.

5.4 In January 2022 the Chair of the Committee, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, requested that officers discuss with her and review an option for a freestanding noticeboard in the northwest corner of the Bury, situated where the BT pay phone was formerly located rather than the location adjacent to Idlewild.

5.5 Your officers also looked at the noticeboards in the bus shelters and were requested by the chair to request quotes for their replacement with noticeboards which were more suitable than those in place.

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 **Market Place.** A noticeboard on the wall of the building on the southeast corner of the Market Place, adjacent to Idlewild, has already been agreed by the council. It would be in the same place as the previous noticeboard and as such would not impede the use of the Market Place. A noticeboard in the northwest corner would be more intrusive in terms of Market Place function and would

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cost more but would be more visible and could be two-sided. Photographs of the potential location and types of noticeboards are attached in the appendix.

- 6.2 This matter is capable of review by this committee because although the Council agreed on the noticeboard on the wall of the building in December 2021, this was pursuant to a committee recommendation and under standing orders is not subject to the “six-month rule.” The latter “rule” would otherwise require that a council resolution cannot be changed within a six-month period save through a motion signed by six members.
- 6.2 **Bus shelters.** Two bus shelters in Stratton Way and the one on the west side of Oxford Road, opposite the Boundary House, to accommodate proper noticeboards. These are non-standard size and hard backed because they were installed with the shelters to accommodate bus timetables which were only occasionally replaced. They have one door and have to be opened with a screwdriver. The bus companies did not require them for bus timetables and rather than remove them they have been used for notices. They are over 15 years old and require replacement. Opting for standard-sized noticeboards designed as such, with two doors, soft backing and key lockable will make them much easier to update especially if they are updated by a community partner. Members may at the same time wish to consider adding on a noticeboard to the Oxford Road bus shelter on the east side, just north of the Boundary House

7. **Climate change/green implications**

- 7.1 Your officers would procure noticeboards made of sustainable materials i.e. recycled plastic or iron and toughened glass fronted. The latter is our preference as plastic is prone to wear through scratching and after a period this can make it difficult to view notices.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

- 8.1 Quotes received from Broxap are included as a confidential appendix on the members' SharePoint.

In relation to the Market Place there is the possibility for funding to be obtained via section 106 funds if it incorporates design which is public art. In this regard it is suggested that regardless of which option is pursued authority is delegated to your officers in consultation with chair and vice-chair to explore the possibilities.

- 8.2 Expenditure would be accommodated within the budgets set for street furniture and the earmarked reserves. Use of Community Infrastructure Levy may be considered. Your officers will advise on the budgets ahead of the meeting and funding approval may also require reference to the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee.

9. **HR implications**

9.1 None.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

10.1 None.

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk
23 February 2022

Appendix A: Noticeboards design and locations

Dartmouth Noticeboard by Broxap – may be supplied single or double-sided



Location of noticeboard in south-east corner of Market Place



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Location of noticeboard if placed in north east corner of Market Place

