

# ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Community Committee
Meeting date	12 July 2022
Report author	Andy Crick
Agenda item	9

## Proposal for new noticeboard in the Market Place

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To re-consider a proposal for a new noticeboard on the north side of the Market Place, outside 'R&R Café', as requested by the town council meeting on 30 March 2022.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The Community Advisory Committee recommended to the town council that a new noticeboard be placed in the Market Place. However, this recommendation was not approved and the Community Committee was asked to re-consider it.

### 3. Action required

- 3.1 The committee is asked to determine the proposal.

### 4. Link to strategic plan and objectives

- 4.1 This proposal meets town council objectives 2 and 3:
2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
  3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

### 5. Background

- 5.1 At its meeting on 9 November 2021, the Community Advisory Committee recommended to the town council 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. This recommendation was agreed by the town council at its meeting on 1 December 2021 (minute C68).

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- 5.2 The Community Services and Events Officer contacted the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society to determine how to work together on the management of information displayed on noticeboards and a meeting was held in January 2022 with Cllr Jehanli, Hester Hand and Sue Killoran of the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society and the Community Services and Events Officer. The siting of a noticeboard in the Market Place was endorsed by the 'Friends' at this meeting.
- 5.3 The Community Committee considered the agreed proposal further at its meeting on 1 March 2022 as a [report](#) was presented by the Town Clerk which recommended that an alternative location to the original one be considered. The Community Committee recommended to the town council that the new noticeboard in the Market Place be installed on the northern side, near to the location of 'R&R Café', and that installation would only take place in consultation with local groups for blind and partially sighted people.
- 5.4 The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind (OAB) was consulted and some queries were raised over the location and colour of the proposed noticeboard, including a possible trip hazard. The OAB noted that the proposed site next to other items of street furniture was the best location as it would minimise the possible hazard.
- 5.4 The recommendation from the Community Committee was considered by the town council on 30 March 2022 (minute C99). The town council did not approve the recommendation and referred it back to the Community Committee for further consideration.
- 5.5 It may be useful to note that due to restrictions on in-person meetings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, town council committees did not meet in person and thus could not take any formal decisions as standing committees of the town council. For this reason the Community Advisory Committee was obliged to make recommendations to the town council for consideration from May 2021 to March 2022. From May 2022, town council committees have met as hybrid meetings, with a quorum of Councillors attending in person to allow the meeting to take formal decisions.

## 6. **Key information and options**

- 6.1 The committee is asked to determine whether a new noticeboard should be installed in the Market Place as advised above.

## 7. **Climate change/green implications**

- 7.1 There are no climate change/green implications other than the cost of production of the proposed noticeboard and the use of appropriate materials to install it. The impact identified is low as it can be expected that the noticeboard will be in position for many years, with no ongoing environmental impact.

## 8. **Financial/budget implications**

- 8.1 The cost of a new double-sided, 1400x1000mm noticeboard is £4,752, plus delivery of £270 and installation by the Outdoor Services Team which is expected to require materials costing up to £50.

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- 8.2 The total cost is therefore £5,072.
- 8.3 The 2022-23 budget for noticeboards is £6,667.
- 8.4 The committee may wish to note that this budget is separate to the budget for street furniture, which sits with the Environment and Amenities Committee.

9. **HR implications**

- 9.1 If approved, the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager will be requested to source and organise the installation of the proposed new noticeboard.
- 9.2 The proposal for a new noticeboard has been considered at length by the town council since 2021 and there has been a cost in time commitment from officers in investigating and reporting on this matter to the committee.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

- 10.1 None.

Andy Crick  
Community Services and Events Officer  
7 July 2022