

Roadside Planters in Sutton Cheney

September 2022

Project Overview

In 2003 stone planters were constructed at the Wharf Lane, Bosworth Road, and Main Street entrances, using stone provided by local man Kes Johnson, who subsequently died young.

In 2021, the Parish Council agreed to refurbish the planters at the Main Street entrance to the village and they were transferred to the ownership of the Parish Council as a result.

The William Roberts Charity has now funded the renovation of the planters on Wharf Lane and Bosworth Road and would like to donate them to the Parish Council.

In order to take on the ownership of the planters, we will have to seek permission from the estate manager and gain a licence from LCC Highways as they are permanent Highways structures.

The current insurance policy will indemnify the Council against public liability, however they will need to be added to the asset register which could lead to an increase to the Council premium.

They may also be some ongoing maintenance costs in terms of seasonal planting, replacement of compost etc. A local community group, Sutton Cheney in Bloom have recently been awarded a community grant from HBBC to cover these costs as well as providing additional hanging baskets and oak barrels. This has been strongly supported by the local community. In future, the group should be encouraged to apply to the Parish Council for Section 137 monies to support them with these ongoing costs.

Clerk Recommendation

The Clerk recommends that the Council adopts the planters on condition that the estate manager and the Highways authority agree to the installations. It is anticipated that the annual cost to the Council will be negligible versus the string visual impact the planters have on the appearance of Sutton Cheney village and the encouragement of community initiatives.