

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Open Spaces Committee meeting on 6th February 2024

Quote for footpath improvements in Willowbrook Garden and the addition of a hard standing area in front of the Millennium Wall

The existing stone-to-dust footpath between the ECC fire exit and the tarmac path through Willowbrook Gardens including the circular area around the Christmas Tree site, need replacing as the surface has worn away and is becoming very uneven. I requested quotes from 2 contractors, but only heard back from 1 who carried out a site visit. I asked them to quote to replace with a similar stone-to-dust path and also with tarmac, both quotes to include a new area of hard standing in front of the Millennium Wall.

JM O'Toole has confirmed that Option 1 (the more expensive option) is for tarmac and Option 2 is for stone-to-dust; each includes the hard standing in front of the Millennium Wall.

The Silver Band stand/ sit in front of the Millennium Wall to play at the Christmas Lights Switch-on, and their chairs tend to sink into the ground. It would be more practical for that and similar events if there was an area of hard standing.

The Millennium Wall itself is quite detailed and needs to be viewed close up to appreciate the detail. Currently, anyone who wishes to look at it must walk across the grass and view it from across the existing planting, which does not complement the wall. The quote entails removing the existing planting and extending the curve of the wall itself to form the circumference of a new circular hard standing to blend in and reflect the existing circular hard standing where the Christmas Tree is sited.

The quote also includes widening the existing tarmac path at the junction of the pavement at Barrett Way. This would then lead off and provide a footpath to the new hard standing in front of the Millennium Wall. The request for this additional path came from the Grounds Team who advised that when the Christmas Tree is delivered by a very long low loader and large van, it will reduce the grass area required to be boarded over and will reduce any risk of damage or wheels getting stuck in the mud. It would also enable people to view the Wall up close without getting muddy feet.

Vision For Wroughton maintain the planted beds in Willowbrook Garden. They previously requested that the main footpath be improved. We will update them on your decision once made and liaise with them over any works which may take place.

NB: There is £19,344 available in a reserve of S.106 money Code 360. This is available for 7 years.

WPC has had the money since 2017. Emma has tried to clarify the actual date with SBC but has never received a response so it needs to be spent as soon as possible. If s.106 is not spent by the deadline, it has to be returned to the developer.

Recommendation:

To accept Option 1 at £18,148 + VAT from the quote dated 26 January 2024 from JM O'Toole. ie: To replace the existing paths with tarmac, and to install a new tarmac hard standing in front of the Millennium Wall, including widening the existing tarmac path from Barrett Way and branching off to form a short stretch of connecting path to the new hardstanding in front of the Millennium Wall, costs to be taken from the Footpaths Reserve S.106 code 360, this work to be commissioned as a matter of urgency.