

Appendix D.

Background or 'Project Specifics' – Application MF013/T2

The provision of raised planters to assist with enforcing Coronavirus Regulations and vehicle mitigation in Pontardawe Town Centre.

This proposal has been developed to 'Enhance Existing Council Services.'

The funding will be used to procure eight recycled plastic 1500mm x 500mm x 700mm raised planters with accompanying compost and shrubs. The planters are designed to be moved, and will be utilised as vehicle barriers during Town Centre events, and as a means of creating temporary passing places to assist with social distancing measures. When not employed during events, the planters will reside in Herbert Street Car Park and enhance the visual aspect of Pontardawe.

Once in place, the Pontardawe Town Council have agreed to water the containers and replace plants as needed as part of the maintenance programme for their annual floral displays.

The need for the proposal has been brought to the attention of Councillor Anthony Richards. Concrete bollards have been deployed outside the Well Pharmacy and Jenkins Bakery on Herbert Street for the past year, and they are considered to be unsightly. There have been many negative comments regarding the bollards on social media, and verbally to local Ward Members and NPTCBC Officers. As town centres look to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, there will be a strong emphasis on providing events to encourage increased footfall into Pontardawe Town Centre. It is the intention to utilise Herbert Street Car Park to host these events and the planters will not only aid with vehicle mitigation and social distancing, but will beautify the area and help to promote health and wellbeing objectives.

The cost of the planters, compost, plants and labour to deliver them has been arrived at with 'Street Care' Services. The planters are comprised of 100% recycled plastic. They are maintenance free, waterproof, UV resistant, vandal resistant and extremely durable.

Recommendations

The project is valued at £4,719.29. The Applicant, Councillor Anthony Richards, would wish to contribute the whole of this amount, and if successful with this application, would be left with £5,280.71 with which to develop further priority projects.

The project proposal is recommended for approval and financial support under the Members Community Fund.