

FDPC Public Consultation

New village noticeboards

Introduction

It has been recognised for a while that since the closure of the village post office, where public notices including Fen Ditton Parish Council (FDPC) agendas and minutes were displayed, there has been a lack of public noticeboard space in the village. For some time now there has been an element of 'fly posting' in the village, albeit promoting local community and worthy fund-raising activities. It is important that any new boards are placed where they will catch the eye of pedestrians and are accessible for public use.

The current thinking is for three new oak noticeboards in the village of various sizes, each with its own distinct purpose (see below): a three-bay board near the entrance to the Recreation Ground, a two-bay in front of the Church Community Hall and a one-bay next to the existing village Information/History board opposite the entrance to Wadloes footpath, High Street.

These are expensive items. Typical costs for noticeboards in keeping with existing ones and considered suitable for the proposed sites (manufactured with man-made material or hardwood) are in the region of £1400-2500 each. This includes 'off the peg' boards from web-based companies and boards tailor-made by local joiners.

FDPC holds S106 Arts funds which can justifiably be used to engage local professional arts and craftsmen/women to produce the noticeboards. This would push the costs of the noticeboards to the top end of the price band. However, it is argued that this approach will address the practical requirement of more noticeboards for the village and deliver highly pleasurable works of art specific to Fen Ditton on a par and complementary to the much valued village sign.

Given the capital expense, the number of noticeboards and their close proximity, FDPC took the view at the July 2016 meeting to consult with residents of Fen Ditton parish before taking a decision. .

The following sections describe the background behind the idea of the three new noticeboards; information on S106 funds; existing noticeboard provision in the village; the proposed size, siting and use of each new noticeboard; and the estimated costings. Please read these before considering the specific questions we would value your feedback on and which can be found on the final page.

Background

In January 2014, following a review of communication between FDPC and the local community, FDPC agreed to erect a new noticeboard near the main entrance to the Recreation Ground. However, the costs identified were voted to be excessive for the annual budget. It was agreed to investigate the option of accessing community S106 money held by FDPC.

Subsequently, the noticeboard in Wrights Close, used exclusively by FDPC, has been identified as non-repairable. As this is sited on private land recently under new ownership, FDPC agreed not to replace it on its current site but for the new board at the Recreation Ground to substitute it.

Following investigation of the use of S106 funds a proposal for two new noticeboards was put to FDPC in July 2016, to be funded by the S106 Arts fund. This proposal was for a three-bay noticeboard near the

entrance of the Recreation Ground and a single open-bay board for general public use alongside the existing village information/history board opposite the entrance to Wadloes footpath, High Street. A local artist had been identified to undertake carving on the header boards and a local joiner identified to produce the boards.

So far, a community grant award of £1500 towards the costs has been secured from South Cambs District Council. It is proposed that commissioning identified local artists and craftsmen/women to produce oak boards including hand carving of the header boards (reflecting aspects of the character/history of the village) would enable FDPC to allocate some or all of the S106 Arts fund it holds of £7000.

Simultaneously a request was received from the Hall Committee that, in addition, a noticeboard at the Church Community Hall was needed to address the same problems of 'fly posting' in front of the Hall and the legitimate need to provide a facility where Hall and local community events could be promoted, and for this to be funded via the same fund. A case was also made that having the board of similar design to the other two would be complementary to the look in the village.

This consultation document addresses the siting and costing of all three noticeboards.

S106 funds

S106 funds are allocated to parish councils by South Cambs District Council (SCDC). The money collected is for Public Open Space, Community Facilities and Public Arts. The funds are drawn from charges SCDC have collected from property developers undertaking work within the parish. There are limitations on how each of these funds can be spent.

FDPC is advised that it is only the Public Arts fund that could be used to finance public noticeboards. This fund is for the commissioning of artists, including craftsmen/women, for the production of works considered enhancing to the community and reflecting local/historical features or character. Comberton, for example, used their S106 Arts fund (size of fund unknown) towards the commissioning of a new war memorial to include the names of parishioners who had fallen during the wars.

It is argued that commissioning local artists/craftsmen/women in the production of the boards will make good use of the Arts fund FDPC holds. It is considered a pragmatic approach to funding the noticeboards and that engaging local arts and craftsmen/women in their production will be highly enhancing to the village environment and be in keeping with SCDC guidance on S106 Arts fund spending.

Existing and serviceable village noticeboards

The locations and functions of these are:

- Musgrave Way (softwood, post-mounted single-bay glass panel) – Parish Council use only.
- Village Green (oak, post-mounted double-bay glass panel) – Parish Council left-hand side, public noticeboard right-hand side (key required).
- Blue Lion Close (constructed of two metal posts and plywood, situated outside the Blue Lion development) – has been used by the public for some time. It is believed to be left over from the Blue Lion development and possibly the Blue Lion pub. Though the FDPC do not own this noticeboard, it was agreed to replace the plywood that had degraded and blown off. Given the

shortage of noticeboards in the village and the fact that the black metal posts were still firmly fixed, this was a pragmatic solution, although the board is of a design and construction that would not be considered suitable within the Conservation Area of the village.

Design, siting and use of three new noticeboards

- 1) A three-bay post-mounted board at Recreation Ground entrance. To be sited in the verge running up to cemetery gates (currently containing shrubbery) to the left-hand side of the Church Street sign. Section of shrubbery to be cleared sufficiently to contain noticeboard, clear site and access:
 - one glass/perspex enclosed case bay for Parish Council use, agenda, minutes, etc. (replacing FDPC noticeboard at Wrights Close)
 - one glass/perspex enclosed case bay for Recreation Ground and Pavilion use, including promotion of Pavilion based events, e.g. Coffee Pot, hiring information, sports clubs, fixtures, membership etc.
 - one open bay for general public notices, pin board effect.
- 2) A two-bay board in the vicinity of the bicycle racks in front of the Church Community Hall, Church Street:
 - one glass/perspex enclosed case bay for Hall events, e.g. Scottish Dancing, Keep Fit
 - one glass/perspex enclosed case bay for promotion of Hall based clubs/societies, e.g. the Baby and Toddler Group, Gardening Club, Badminton Club etc.
- 3) A one-bay board near the existing village information/history board opposite entrance to Wadloes Footpath, High Street:
 - one open bay for general public notices, pin board effect.

Costings

Estimates have been obtained from two local joiners and two web-based companies for comparison. The local joiners were comparable and the two-web-based companies comparable. NE Joinery, based in Horningsea are the preferred local joiners, based on recommendation and their work reinstating an oak frame for the village information/history board, High Street, earlier this year. Local professional wood carvers are few and far between. One local stone and wood carver, Wendy Martin (based in Cottenham) has been identified as most suitable according to her portfolio, examples of work and initial ideas proposed. Some of Wendy's work can be viewed at www.camopenstudios.co.uk/user/796/summary

NE Joinery and Wendy Martin will work closely together to ensure that the construction and specifics of the headers on the boards meet Wendy's requirements for wood carving.

Estimated costings are presented below; the final costs will depend on exact specifications. The costings from a web-based company, Greenbarnes, who produced the double oak bay on the Village Green have been provided for cost comparisons. The Greenbarnes noticeboards can include header boards with lettering but are not of sufficient thickness, height etc. to enable detailed carving work. It is only by sourcing artists and craftsman to create a bespoke design that use of the S106 Arts funds could be supported.

1) Recreation Ground – three-bay as described above

Wendy Martin estimate

Large carving Triple-bay noticeboard (assuming 600x200mm relief carving and no lettering)	Initial design – 4 hours	£80.00
	Design and drawing – 8 hours	£160.00
	Modelling – 16 hours	£320.00
	Relief carving – 60 hours	£1200.00
		Total £1760

NE Joinery – three-bay constructed of oak, two oak posts, two glazed doors, one pin board, plus header board (for carving) £1950.00

TOTAL inclusive of artist's cost for carving £3710

Greenbarnes – three-bay constructed of oak, two glazed doors, two softwood posts, header board £1613.00

Self-healing pin board £140.20

Engraved lettering @ £4.34 a character (costed 20 letters) £86.80

Delivery £80.00

TOTAL £1920.00

2) Church Community Hall – two-bay as described above

Wendy Martin estimate

Medium carving Double-bay noticeboard	Initial design – 4 hours	£80.00
	Design and drawing – 6 hours	£120.00
	Modelling – 12 hours	£240.00
	Relief carving – 40 hours	£800.00
		Total £1240.00

NE Joinery – two-bay constructed of oak, two oak posts, two glazed doors, header board (for carving) – estimated cost based on other pricing £1500

TOTAL inclusive of artist's cost for carving £2740

Greenbarnes – two-bay constructed of oak, two glazed doors, two softwood posts, header board £1285.00

Engraved lettering @ £4.34 a character (costed 10 letters) £43.40

Delivery £60.00

TOTAL £1388.00

3) Public Notice Board – one-bay as described above

Wendy Martin estimate

Small carving	Initial design – 4 hours	£80.00
Single-bay	Design and drawing – 4 hours	£80.00
noticeboard	Modelling – 8 hours	£160.00
(assuming	Relief carving – 16 hours	£320.00
150x150mm relief	Letter carving – 60mm letters	£121.00
carving and 'VILLAGE	@ £11 per letter	
NEWS' lettering)		TOTAL £761.00

NE Joinery Ltd – one-bay oak framed open-fronted noticeboard with green oak post £695.00
TOTAL inclusive of artist's cost for carving £1456.00

Greenbarnes – one-bay constructed of oak, inclusive of self-healing pin board £320.00
 Header board £70.00
 1 softwood post £122.30
 Engraved lettering @ £4.34 a character (costed 11 letters) £47.74
 Delivery £30.00
TOTAL £590.00

Summary comparison table of estimated costs

	NE Joinery + Handcarving/Artist	Greenbarnes
Three-bay	£3710.00	£1920.00
Two-bay	£2740.00	£1388.00
Single-bay	£1456.00	£590.00
Total	£7906.00	£3898.00

Questions – please let us know what you think

To purchase the three noticeboards and allow for installation costs, all of the S106 Arts fund will need to be used.

- 1) Are you in agreement with all three boards proposed, their use and siting? If not, what do you recommend?
- 2) Are you in agreement with using the S106 Arts fund to commission local artists/craftsmen/women to produce bespoke boards with hand carved headers portraying the character/history of the village? If not, what do you recommend?
- 3) Do you have any further comments?