

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 9 JANUARY 2018  
title: TOWNELEY GARDENS, LONGRIDGE, UPDATE  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Committee with an update on the progress on the work to improve Towneley Gardens, initiated by the Longridge Community Partnership.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - to support the community in enhancing the built environment in Longridge.
- Corporate Priorities - to encourage economic development throughout the borough, with a specific focus on tourism.
- Other Considerations - none

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 At Committee in January 2016, approval was granted (min. ref 494, 12.01.16) for the development of Towneley Gardens and Bowling Green in accordance with the proposals submitted by the Longridge Community Partnership.

2.2 The work was scheduled to be in three stages subject to suitable funding being obtained by the partnership:

- replace historic iron work, removed prior to WW2. Provide a measured mile, seating and tables, plus some interpretation panels.
- regenerate the bandstand area.
- general improvements to the biodiversity of the area, including a bee apiary and geocaching.

2.3 The principal funding identified was from the Tesco local community fund.

### 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The plans for the work were drawn up and appropriate permissions were granted for the work. Following public consultation instead of replacement railings, the original iron work proposal became a metal archway into the gardens from the entrance on Berry Lane.
- 3.2 Work has been carried out to install the arch (see attached picture). The organising group would like permission from the Council to remove a small section of the wall alongside the gardens and bordering the pavement on Berry Lane so it makes the gap symmetrical and avoids the archway overlapping the wall as (it does currently).
- 3.3 Three notice boards have been purchased and the organising group wish to locate these on the external wall of the Council's toilet block.
- 3.4 A number of picnic benches have been purchased to be located on the central paved area.
- 3.5 There will be raised flower beds installed once the wall can be removed and a lectern interpretation panel will be installed on the Berry Lane side of the bench, shown by the dotted line in the picture attached.

### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The Council manages the garden area and discussions have taken place with the Longridge Community Partnership to ensure the resources required to maintain the area, post the work will be no greater than those required previously.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council has given planning permission for the archway, planning consent is not required for the section of wall to be removed.
- Political – None in the context of this report
- Reputation – The Council seeks to maintain an environment which both residents and visitors can enjoy. This work will enhance that reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – None applicable to this report

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Approves the revised work carried out and gives permission for the proposed work outlined in the report.

MARK BEVERIDGE  
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

JOHN HEAP  
Director of Community Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS  
None

For further information please contact for Mark Beveridge 01200 4479

