

Agenda Item; Robert Owen Celebration Clock

1. Information / Noting / Approval

For Approval.

2. Purpose of the Report

To inform Council of recent developments relating to this project and seek agreement for the terms as described below.

3. Background Information

All Councillors elected in May 2019 committed to fund the development of more public art in the town. Local artist Andy Mayers in partnership with the Central England Co-operative has designed a 24 hour clock which commemorates the life of philanthropist and social reformer Robert Owen, the 250th anniversary of whose birth occurred in 2021. Their proposal is that with the financial support of Belper Town Council a 1.2 meter diameter installation would be permanently displayed on the eaves above the entrance to their main Belper store, situated in Strutt Street (see appendix 1).

The clock focuses on Owen's belief in the need for an 8 hour working day, together with the benefits of 8 hours recreation and 8 hours rest.

An animation of the design can be seen on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9x8iibFOLA>

This development was last considered by the Arts, Events & Heritage Committee at its meeting on 21st June 2022, recommending to Full Council that a series of virements be made, resulting in a total allocated budget of £8,000 to this project and that 'a full proposal, including costings, would be sought from the Co-operative Society and agreed by this Committee before this project could be commissioned'. This recommendation was agreed at Full Council on 14th July with the total amount identified as an Ear Marked Reserve (budget line 8022 – Contribution to Robert Owen Clock).

Following a meeting with a senior representative of Central England Co-operative, all issues and clarifications previously raised by BTC have been satisfactorily resolved in writing and it was confirmed that there would be no further financial liabilities falling to Belper Town Council other than the £8000 agreed above.

The numerous objectives of this development include:

- Further developing the existing tourist appeal of our town
- Informing people about the historic links between the Arkwright and Strutt families, with Robert Owen
- Highlighting Owen's foresight in understanding the importance of work/life balance
- Enhancing our historic town's wider cultural reputation
- Celebrating the life of an influential social reformer

A small group of local people have committed to inform and promote the project at a local level producing and distributing informative postcards and

organising a national profile opening event in the spring. This group would welcome the inclusion of any BTC Councillors interested in this project.

4. Legislation

There is no current legislation relating to Town Councils and their responsibilities with regard to commissioning public art. CEC have confirmed responsibility for any planning requirements, which may apply.

5. Accessibility Implications - *Have the recommendations in this report taken in to account the need for Council services and information to be accessible for people with a disability and if so how is this illustrated.*

Interpretation boards and other information aids will be carefully considered to maximise access to the available information. Nimbus Disability will also be consulted in relation to the accessibility of the whole site.

6. Climate Emergency Implications - *Demonstrate any environmental consequences and how these would be addressed*

There are no discernable climate emergency implications which derive from this project.

7. Corporate Plan Implications

This development would make a significant contribution to the delivery of the following Corporate Plan objectives.

DB 4: Work with partners to raise the positive profile of the Town, locally, nationally, and internationally.

CA 3: Take pride in the town and celebrate our cultural identity.

MC 2: Work effectively in partnership with the community and other organisations.

8. Financial Implications

BTC have allocated £8,000 as the Town's contribution to the Robert Owen Clock, which would be paid directly to the manufacturer on successful completion of the project.

9. Recommendation

That Council make an £8,000 contribution to the design and manufacturing costs of the Robert Owen Celebration Clock to be paid directly to the manufacturer on conclusion of the project.

10. Reasons for recommendation(s)

To enhance the cultural, artistic and educational offering to the town's residents and visitors.