



Agenda Item
Public Art - Robert Owen 24 Hour Clock Proposal
Approval / Noting For approval
Purpose of the Report To inform members of the Arts, Events & Heritage Committee about developments relating to the production and installation site for a 24 hour clock commemorating the philanthropist Robert Owen.
Background Information All Councillors elected in May 2019 committed to fund the development of more public art in the town. To date this has not been achieved, although there has been some consideration of potential projects in the Arts, Events & Heritage Committee. In order for this Council to deliver any development before the conclusion of its tenure in May 2023, a decision must be made imminently, allowing work to begin. Local artist Andy Mayers has designed a 24 hour clock which commemorates the life of Robert Owen, founder of the Co-operative movement, the 250 th anniversary of his birth occurred in 2021. 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=9x8iibIF0LA This work has been developed in conjunction with Central England Co-operative who want to inform and educate the public about Robert Owen's many achievements and have agreed to donate £3,000 to the project and given permission for it to be installed on their store in Strutt Street. In addition the Co-operative Party have agreed to donate £500 and a further £50 has been raised through a GoFundMe page. A small group consisting of the artist and other interested parties are committed to progressing this project to its successful conclusion and intend continuing a publicity drive and further fund raising during the period of manufacture. It is estimated that the total cost of the project will not exceed £12,000. Further details including financial breakdown can be found on Appendix 1.
Legislation There is no current legislation relating to Town Councils and their responsibilities with regard to commissioning public art.
Accessibility Implications - <i>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.</i> Although this clock would not adversely affect accessibility in the town in any



way, there is a need to consider how the concept and information could be made as accessible as possible to people who have disabling conditions including people with a learning disability or visual impairment. The group who are progressing this project will be considering how best to achieve this.

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.

Financial Implications

It is anticipated that the cost of this project can be found from within the financial resources already allocated to this Committee, due to a number of under-spends or projects that have not been progressed. However, if this is not possible a proposal will need to be put to Full Council in order to secure the outstanding amount from the 'Future Projects' budget code.

Recommendation(s)

1. To agree that the £2,500 identified in the 2021/22 budget for Public Arts is allocated for the Robert Owen 24 Hour Clock
2. That additional funds already available to this committee are also allocated to the completion of this project such as:
6200 – Talks Programme - £1,000
6201 – Inclusive Arts for Vulnerable People - £3,000
6204 – Queens Jubilee – to be calculated
3. That a proposal is put to Full Council to agree any additional amount that may be required from within the 'Future Projects' earmarked reserves, enabling the manufacture of the clock to commence.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

If the Council want to proceed with this project it needs to take the necessary steps immediately.