

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Assets Committee, 2nd September 2024
Agenda item: AS24/007
Report subject: Victoria Park – bin replacement & emptying
Report author: Julie Gilbert, Assistant Town Clerk

PROPOSAL:

To ratify executive action taken by the Town Clerk to purchase x4 replacement litter bins in Victoria Park, on health and safety grounds, and to confirm whether the Town Council will remove and dispose of the four existing bins and install and empty the four new bins going forward.

Background

Victoria Park usually contains four black metal bins. These are located at the vehicle entrance, by the youth shelter, in the play area and next to the path near the church wall and scout hut.

During a health and safety inspection by the Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk in Victoria Park it was observed that the bins were very rusty and a health and safety hazard, and the apertures had sharp rusted metal edges. The bin in the play area was removed during the installation of the new play equipment, and there are three bins still remaining in the park.

South Hams District Council (SHDC) had been routinely emptying three of the bins, with the exception of the one next to the youth shelter which is regularly emptied by Ivybridge Town Council parks team. District Cllr Abbott had entered negotiations with SHDC on the Town Council's behalf for all of them to be replaced and funded by them.

As it is a Conservation Area the Town Council prefers to replace these with similar black metal bins as these would be more aesthetically pleasing to the heritage surroundings of the park. Metal was also preferred due to the potential for anti-social behaviour in the park and the flammable properties of plastic bins.

SHDC have confirmed that they only install standard recycled plastic bins. It was initially suggested in a SHDC discussion involving Cllr Abbott that the Town Council pays the difference between the price of the SHDC standard bins and the more expensive black bins. However, SHDC have since advised that it is Town Council land so the Town Council must pay for the bins and also the emptying of all the bins. They have however offered to install them at cost if we purchase the more expensive bins.

Decision taken

During the works to install the new play equipment, and following the inspection of the bins, the Town Clerk requested the removal of the bin within the play area, which was disposed of by the play installation company.

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The three remaining bins were deemed unsafe due to the significant amount of rusting around the apertures, and so a decision was taken, after discussion with several former Parks Committee members, including Chair, to replace them on health and safety grounds.

Decision required

Members to consider whether, as our Parks Officers already empty one of the litter bins, and now that SHDC have advised that they would charge the Town Council for emptying of the other three bins, the Town Council now takes responsibility and ownership of the four bins and adds them to our regular bin emptying round.

Or whether the Town Council accepts costs (to follow) for SHDC to empty all four bins.

Resources

Financial

The Town Council has ordered 4 x Broxap Derby Compact Litter Bins with Pyramid Lid 120 ltr in black metal at a cost of £259 plus VAT each and delivery of £90 plus VAT – Total Net £1,126. Expected delivery date 20/09/24. Funds from EMR Parks, Woods & Open Spaces.

Costs to follow from SHDC regarding removal and disposal of three existing bins and installation of four new bins.

Costs to follow from SHDC regarding emptying of four bins in Victoria Park

Staffing

The removal and disposal of existing bins and installation and emptying of the new bins may be performed by the Town Council's Parks Officers depending upon costs quoted from SHDC and Member's decision.