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**Meeting:** Full Town Council, Item TC11.12

**Date:** 16th March 2021

**Author:** Charlotte Starkie, Town Clerk

**Subject:** To consider request from two community groups: Town Twinning Association and the local branch of Royal British Legion, and to note the request from the 7 Starlings

## 1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To consider and agree if the council supports the request as outline below

- a. From the Town Twinning Association
- b. From the local branch of the Royal British Legion
- c. The 7 Starling Book Roost

## 2.0 Background information to the Town Twinning Association Request

2.1 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of friendship between Shepton and our German twin town of Misburg, near Hanover. Normally this significant anniversary would be recognised with a gathering of the respective Town Twinning Associations and other town representatives either here, or in Misburg. This is not possible because of Covid 19 restrictions.

2.2 It is important to mark this significant anniversary nonetheless. The Town Twinning Association asks that the town council considers one of the following options:

- a. An iron-framed bench in Collett Park with commemorative plaque placed by Millennium Way (this is the Association's preferred option) (approximate cost £1200)
- b. Planting a tree in commemoration of the anniversary (approximate cost £450, depending on species, planting and a plaque)
- c. A plaque in the bandstand in recognition the fact that it was the Misburg male voice choir that initiated the twinning in 1961 (approximate cost £150)

### **3.0 Background Information on the Royal British Legion request**

- 3.1 2021 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal British Legion. Their celebration weekend is 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> May. They have permission to fly their new standard from the town flag pole.
- 3.2 A request was made in January that was taken to the Collett Park Management Committee in February 2021. As the information was vague no decision could be made, and it was agreed that further information be sought for a decision at this meeting.
- 3.3 The request is from the RBL to have some floral tributes to the anniversary at 2 locations in town: one by the Cenotaph on land belonging to MDC, and the other in Collett Park. The request is for the town council to seek a quotation from our contractor to create a floral boxed and raised display in the design of their anniversary flag, close to the RBL commemorative tree in Collett Park. Information has been rather vague and so we have a tentative basic enquiry with the contractor who have stated that as there is so little time, it will be difficult to design, quote, source, create and install a display in time for the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021. We have liaised with the originator of the request to say that as we had insufficient information to work on, that it is unlikely that this can be supported. However, the town council might have a different view. The RBL did say that they would be willing to pay for all or part of the floral display, but as costs are unknown, it is difficult to give any formal recommendation to the council for consideration.

### **4.0 Background Information on the Book Roost**

- 4.1 The 7 Starlings set up a successful young person's book exchange in the Market Cross in the summer of 2020. They have requested that while the library is closed for its refurbishment they set up another Book Roost in the band stand in Collett Park. As Clerk, I have given outline approval, but this is subject to further information, and based also on others who might make requests to make use of the park. No decision to be made at this meeting, but for councillors to be aware of the request.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 To support the Town Twinning Association proposal:
- a. Cost of an iron framed bench with plaque and concrete plinth approx. £1200
  - b. Cost of a commemorative tree with plaque approx. £450
  - c. Cost of a plaque in bandstand approx. £150
- Costs to be split between Town Improvements and Collett Park budgets
- 5.2 To support the RBL proposal – cost unknown

### **6.0 Town Plan Reference**

- 6.1 To capitalise on the rich culture and heritage that the town has to offer and advance it through self-promotion to locals and visitors alike.

**7.0**     **Recommendations**

- 7.1     For councillors to consider and agree if they support the request from the Town Twinning Association. If so, to vote to support option 4.1a, 4.1b or 4.1c.
  
- 7.2     To give a steer regarding the request in relation to the commemorative floral display in Collett Park for the Royal British Legion