

Town Sign

Introduction

The Town Sign which is located at Jubilee Gardens is splitting apart and the artist who refurbished it in 2014 has agreed that the situation is now terminal and the sign is beyond repair. The purpose of this report is to outline the history of the sign and to seek members support for the Clerk to commission a new sign.

Background

In January 2014 members received the following report from the Clerk:

‘The Town Sign on the Jubilee Gardens in the High Street is currently in a poor state of repair and in need of refurbishment. (In fact members were able to view this for themselves as the sign had been taken down and was being stored in the Council Chambers).

The sign is the responsibility of the Town Council thanks to an agreement reached with the Women’s Institute after the Institute installed the first sign in 1977 to mark the Queen’s Silver Jubilee.

By February 2001 the sign was beyond repair and Mr Barry Limbrick was commissioned to produce a new sign based on the previous design. Mr Limbrick lived in Chatteris and agreed to make the sign for the low price of £684 because his father had engraved the original plaque and he felt it would be an honour. There was an additional charge of £175 for the post and installation and the sign went up in February 2002. While the Council paid the bulk of the cost there were also donations from The Cambs Times and the WI. A few years later Mr Limbrick carried out minor repairs to the sign.

Mr Limbrick has now left Chatteris but Mr Richard Savage, of Savage Art and landlord of the Honest John pub, has very kindly agreed to refurbish the sign and will only charge for the materials as it is for his home town. Members will be informed when the sign is to be re-installed.’ Members noted the report.

In April 2014 Mr Savage was paid £202.95 for his work, which included repairs to the woodwork carried out by Mr Kelvin Palmer. The sign was officially unveiled in June 2014.

Currently

Mr Savage agrees the sign is beyond repair and is happy to paint another sign and once again has very kindly agreed only to charge for the materials. The main expense, therefore, will be the wood for the sign.

Decision

Are members happy for the Clerk to take up Mr Savage’s kind offer and for her to source the wood for the sign?