



REPORT FROM: Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager

TO: West Craven Committee

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Report Author: Michael Williams

Tel. No: 01282 661963

E-mail: michael.williams@pendle.gov.uk

West Craven Town Centres Re-opening – WBF Update

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the committee on the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) grant spending for Re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby Town Centres.

Recommendations

To update the committee on the spending for re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby high streets

Reasons for recommendations

In order that the Committee remains apprised of developments concerning the WBF spending on the Re-opening of Barnoldswick and Earby Town Centres

Update on spending

1. WBF Grant Funding for West Craven

The table below indicates the funding available to West Craven and a Spending Plan which was agreed at the Area Committee meeting on 3rd August with an update on spending.

Town	RHSSF	WBF	Total	Notes
Barnoldswick	£228.67	£10,285	£10,513.67	
Earby	£114.33	£5,142	£5,256.33	
			£15,770.00	
		Actual Spend		
Website (Joint or separate)		Barlick	Earby	
Website		£5,296	£0	
Public Realm				
Planters for Barlick (Amberol)		£501		As requested by BTC
Hanging baskets		£600		
poles and base plates (T&F Steel Designs)		£2,230		
Install in Barlick (LCC or other - estimate)		£2,400		Other quotes are being sought
Repaint Planters for Earby			£3,995	
Earby Light columns painting			£0	£825 not utilised for this
Existing safety measures				
Sanitiser fluid			£0	
Publicity to promote both towns				
Print (Flyers etc)/ Soc Media			£0	
Total		£11,027	£3,995	
Remainder		-£513.53	£1,261.33	

Answers to member's requests from the December meeting:

- **Lighting columns** – As requested by the members of the West Craven Area Committee, The Housing, Health & Engineering Services Manager asked LCC to respond to its request to repaint the lighting columns in Earby and has received the following reply:

“LCC decided to stop all funding for repainting columns approximately 20 years ago, when the policy to paint existing columns was removed, the only existing columns we have painted since are where it was funded by the District/Parish Council or in some cases resident groups.”

- **Earby Public Realm** – After the members request at the December meeting PBC's Economic Development Officer spoke again to inform the Clerk of Earby Town Council that an audit had already been carried out. The Clerk of Earby Town Council responded that “ETC are conducting their periodic update to their Asset Register which will ascertain which assets are ETC's responsibility and following inspection, record the condition of these items. Any items requiring maintenance will be assessed within the budgetary process for ETC in the coming financial year. In the meantime Earby Town Council welcomes direct contact with any representations made as to the condition of specific items of street furniture it owns.”

- **Hanging Baskets** – the items as previously requested by members for Barnoldswick had not unfortunately been included on the WBF budget. The cost of these which had been quoted at £600 had now been included on the budget. The cost of these would be met either from within WBF's existing budget or from the PEDRS budget
- **Barnoldswick Website** – members requested that a report be brought by PEDRS to the next Policy & Resources Committee on the website contract. Currently this is being prepared to go to P&R but it was thought important that an initial report be given before that to WCAC members. This is as follows:

1. A proper procurement procedure was put in place for the development of two websites for Pendle. One for Barnoldswick and one for Nelson & Brierfield.
2. The specification for the procurement considered the needs of all the towns in the process and therefore included three options:

OPTION 1 Separate Basic websites (no self content management – have to go back to the company for any changes)

OPTION 2 Separate Content managed websites

OPTION 3 Content managed platform which all separate websites share

Below are the costings which came back from the procurement process

Company	Option 1 (w/out help)	Option 2	Option 3	Host Opt 1	Host Opt 2	Host Opt 3	Data input total	TOTAL Opt1	TOTAL Opt2	TOTAL Opt3
Company 1	Not recommended	13000	15000		1300	1500	1440		15740	17940
Company 2	Not offered	Not offered	32000			6000	6000			44000
Company 3	Not offered	Not offered	22810			4640	£3,280			30730
Company 4		5000	7000	15000	1,200	1,200	1200	10,500		18700
Company 5 (Barlick)		14950	18425	21900	0	0	0	0	18425	21900
Company 5 (Nelson & B)		24200	32300	40400	0	0	0	0	32300	40400
Company 5 both towns		39150	50725	62300	0	0	0	0	50725	62300

What can be noted from these costings are:

- a) That if Barnoldswick chose a separate basic website it would cost £6200 with Company 4 and that is without the contacting/inputting help with businesses required initially
 - b) Instead the cheapest option for Barnoldswick was to share a platform and the costs with other towns at only 30% of the total cost, ie £5,385
 - c) Not only was this the cheapest option for Barnoldswick but it was the BEST option, given that the town:
 - a. Gets its own website
 - b. Gets a more advanced – self content-managed site for less than the cost of a basic site
 - c. Gets to work with a reliable, highly respected company who have done work like this before to a high standard
 - d. Gets a good element of help from the contracted company with getting businesses signed up to the site included with the fee, including contacting, or attempting to contact, 100 businesses locally
 - e. Gets the opportunity to put community and tourism information on the site as well as business information
3. **Website Contract** – Considering the time constraints on the grant and having assessed the best value for money and quality of what was on offer from this extensive procurement process the company with the best and cheapest offer was asked to sign a contract with

PBC to deliver the websites. This was approved by the Grant Body and is on PBC's official Grant Contract with the grant body which has been signed off by the Council's Director

4. Website progress – This is now well advanced and at the time of this report information on the town's businesses are being input onto the system and we are hoping to have a full working model to show members after Christmas

5. Website Sustainability – As the EDO outlined at the start of this process it is vital that this project is sustained for all towns beyond the grant-assisted first year of the project. It is hoped that the respective town councils could takeover the responsibility of these sites going forward, including financially and from an updating information point of view. Though there are good options to explore in asking local businesses to share in those costs. To that end we have laid out below the potential future costs so that members can assess these for themselves. Given the complexity of sites it should be noted that there would be a need to have some form of ad hoc maintenance to the sites even if the cheapest option is chosen.

6. Future Costs

	Service	Cost per month	Cost per year	Additional ad hoc support
Option 1	Hosting/Security/Plug ins/maintenance 1hr per month included	125	1500	£50 per hour
Option 2	Hosting no other support	70	840	£60 per hour
Option 3	Cheaper Server no other support	30	360	£60 per hour

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report

Financial: As detailed in this report

Legal: None arising directly from this report

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report

Sustainability: Beyond their initial use, items such as the website (1 year) need consideration given to their longer term sustainability

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS None