



**REPORT FROM:** PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER

**TO:** NELSON, BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY, 2022

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## NELSON AND BRIERFIELD TOWN CENTRE REOPENING

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report to the Committee on the Welcome Back Fund (WBF).

### RECOMMENDATION

To update the committee on the spending for re-opening of Nelson and Brierfield high streets.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- (1) In order that the Committee remains apprised of developments concerning the spending on the Re-opening of Nelson and Brierfield Town Centres.
- (2) In order that spending from the Welcome Back Fund is progressed.

### Update on spending

#### 1. WBF Grant Funding - Current Position

A spending plan was originally agreed but we have since updated. The budget now looks like this:

Town	RHSSF	WBF	Total	
Nelson	£10,100	£25,170	£35,270	
Brierfield	£5,199	£12,180	£17,379	
			<b>£52,649</b>	
Budget		£35,270	£17,379	
		Nelson	Brierfield	
<b>Joint Website</b>				
Content managed website		£10,616	£1,937	£12,553
<b>Events</b>				
Nelson Winter Festival		£0	£0	
<b>Public Realm</b>				
Barrier baskets Nelson		£3,000		
Methodist Church planting			£477	
Brierfield Town Hall planting scheme			£13,500	
<b>Existing safety measures</b>				
Sanitiser fluid		£0	£0	
Extra sanitiser units		£0	£0	
<b>Publicity to promote both towns</b>				
Print (Flyers etc)		£0	£0	
Social media		0	0	
<b>Digital Totem signs x 1</b>				
Nelson		12000		
<b>Total</b>		£25,616	£15,914	
				BOTH
<b>Remainder</b>		£9,654	£1,465	£11,119

## 2. Progress on spend (Up-to-date at time of writing)

- 1) **Website for Nelson & Brierfield** – the development of the website has started and all town centre businesses in Nelson and Brierfield have been contacted asking them to provide a picture and some simple information about their business. Though there is one website we will have two website addresses – “come to Nelson” and “come to Brierfield”.

So far there have been returns for 30 businesses – 22 in Nelson and 11 in Brierfield. Over 150 businesses have had follow up calls in order that there are as many businesses as possible on the site. As part of the follow up the information request form has been emailed to many businesses.

Businesses are being added to the website at this time and it is hoped to have a working site to show members after Christmas.

- 2) **Events** – Christmas Festival - The Assistant Town Clerk (ATC) for Nelson Town Council (NTC) has provided a number of quotes for activities for this event and the following have been booked :

Snow Globe [www.letitsnowglobeevents.co.uk](http://www.letitsnowglobeevents.co.uk) £975 + VAT

Starlite – Ice Rink. Total cost £3075 PLUS VAT

Unfortunately both items could not be purchased using WBF grant money because:

Snow Globe – this could not be put up on the day of the event due to Health & Safety reasons and no charge has been made

Ice Rink – the supplier insisted on being paid upfront which is against Council payment policies and did not want to have a 50% deposit either. This meant that NTC had to pay for this service itself before the event

- 3) **Public Realm improvements in Nelson** – these were discussed with the ATC for Nelson TC. The requirements would be for 30 barrier baskets. The ATC has come back with estimates of cost for these at around £3000. The ATC will need to seek three quotes from companies for these. These quotes will need to be provided to “Pendle Borough Council” as we need to be the ones ordering these under grant rules.
- 4) **Public Realm improvements in Brierfield** - The chair, Cllr Ashraf, kindly provided the contact details for Karin Grandal-Park of Build a Brighter Brierfield (BBB). They had identified two sites for improvement which could be assisted by the grant. Outside the Methodist Church and outside Brierfield Town Hall. It was agreed with the Chair of this Committee to order the (grant-funded) spend on the plants to go in front of the Methodist Church at £477+ vat
- 5) **Deferment** - At the last meeting the Committee deferred again a decision to go ahead with the plan to landscape the Brierfield Town Hall site. The Committee requested that the Council go out again for tendered quotes on the basis that it thought that the original quote provided was the only one to come forward and any procurement should include a wider field of companies. The Council's Green Spaces Manager was consulted and they recommended a number of landscape garden designers to include on the procurement list. In addition a community organisation that has done planting projects was also added to the list. To ensure complete fairness the procurement list included the previous landscape gardener that had provided the original quote but did not include the in-house services of PBC's Parks Section.

6) **Results of the procurement process** – the table below indicates the results of the process

Company	Response received
A	No quote received
B	Declined to quote
C	No quote received
D	Provided quote £13,500
E	No quote received

7) **Decision on landscaping the Brierfield Town Hall site** – Given the extremely pressing nature of the grant deadline, whereby **any work needs to be completed and paid for by the end of March 2022** the Chair, in consultation with a number of member colleagues has taken the decision on behalf of this Committee to approve the work of the landscaping project and award the contract to Company D, provided the Grant Body approves the project

8) **Building Bridges project** - We received an application for possible WBF grant assistance from Building Bridges. Some of the application was ineligible for grant, but some of it might have been workable. The Economic Development Officer had tried on a number of occasions to get in touch with the originator of the original application in order to make it a more viable one – including visiting their offices. The EDO had eventually managed to get in touch with BB and had discussed a potential application with them. The EDO told BB of the imminent grant deadline, whereby any project had to be delivered and paid for by the end of March 2022. The EDO told BB that it would be essential to agree any application with the Area Committee and that given the imminent deadline that the January Committee Meeting would be their last opportunity to put forward an application. At the time of writing this report (December 20<sup>th</sup>) no application has come forward from them.

9) **Digital Totems** – A number of sites have been explored with our Legal and Engineering Teams. Due the impending grant deadline and to the complexities of land ownership and engineering issues it is thought not possible to install two totems in the town centre before the grant deadline finishes at the end of March 2022. At the time of writing this report there is ONE possibility which we are currently exploring which is a site that MAY be possible on the Place de Creil but we would have to certain that this could be done in time to meet the grant deadline. A further update to this is expected soon. The budget above has been adjusted accordingly.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** None arising directly from this report

**Financial:** As detailed in this report

**Legal:** PBC Legal Team will need to be involved with any legal issues related to certain items, such as the totem signs

**Risk Management:** Items, such as the totems, will need to be reported to PBC's insurers

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from this report

**Sustainability:** Beyond their initial use, items such as the website (1 year) and the totem signs (2years) 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** None

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** None