

Jack Charlton Statue/Charlton Brothers Commemorative Project

We have received an estimate of costs and full specification for the groundworks to install the statute from Brambledown. The mandatory process to establish whether planning permission is required will have been sent at the time of this meeting. Once a response has been received, the Council will be asked to approve the draft licence which we have from NCC Strategic Estates.

Most pledged funding has now been received for the Jack Charlton Project, including £10,000 received from Bruce Shepherd on 13th April 2022, via Cllr Liam Lavery. There is expected to be £4,133 remaining in the Jack Charlton Statue budget, following payment for groundworks. The Council can agree to divert their own funding to the Charlton Brothers Project, which at present has a promised £5,000 from Northumberland County Council.

Two concepts have been provided by interested parties that honour both Jack and Bobby, World Cup success, and celebrated footballers from Ashington. It is envisioned that there will be four storyboards set into a structure which will also be in Hirst Park, near to the statue of Jack. The next step is to get the working group, Barry Mead and NCC Officers together to look at the feasibility of bringing this project in line with the timescales of the Jack Charlton Statue project, which is scheduled for August. Additional funding is needed for this project.

Climate Change Schools Project – Work in Progress Signs for Station Road

Sharon Parmley has contacted Ashington Schools to seek their interest in being involved in the creation of 'Work in Progress' signs for Station Road. Schools were delighted to be consulted on how best they could be involved, and we look to a variety of designs coming from different groups and classes from the schools.

Station Road Preparation and Planting***Beds***

WL Straughan, supported by Town Council staff, will be delivering and placing a compost mulch into beds on 18th, 19th and 20th of May. This will nurture what is there and prepare the ground for planting in September.

The Clerk has responded to one letter of complaint regarding the Council's decision not to plant annuals on Station Road; the reasons have been given and plans explained.

We will receive an overview of Sean Murrays designs for Station Road on 30th May, these will be brought to the June FGS Committee for consideration and approval.

Hanging Baskets and Troughs

Hanging Baskets and troughs will be installed w/c 16th May 2022.

Vacancy – Seaton Ward

The elections office has confirmed that an election has been requested. Further information will be announced when received.

Annual Grant Aid Funding

The closing date is Friday 13th May 2022.

Electric Vehicle

We are looking into replacing the Citroen Van with a suitable electric alternative.

It is expected to bring a recommendation to sell the van privately, paying off what is owed on the Finance Agreement, and using the remaining funds to pay a deposit and install the charging point. We expect to recommend taking out an electric van on lease (due to the rapidly changing technologies), which would be like the vehicle repayments currently being made. Therefore, no additional budget cost.

It is expected that this will be brought to the FGS Meeting in June.