

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 13/10/2022

Fairground: Utility Square

Agenda item 22/068 8a: To resolve the budget of up to £20,000, from Community Infrastructure Levy Reserves, for the Fairground Utility Square.

Background

Previously, several parishioners have commented on how nice the Christmas tree looked but felt the Heras fence spoilt the overall appearance.

As there have been a few issues over the years with vandalism to the fence, tree and light, some sort of protection is required.

In addition, there is a risk to whoever must access the electric box on the pole to install the Christmas tree lights and the light wires are a hazard when hanging from the electric box for the Christmas period.

Although no formal budget was agreed, the idea of the Utility Square was considered as part of the 2022/23 budget process and was included on the Stratfield Mortimer Council Action Plan 2022-2023.

Quotes have now been sought and budget approval is required.

Proposal

The utility square will be 4m x 4m and made up off 1.2 meter high railings with a double width entrance gate at the back.

240v power will be supplied via approximately 10 sockets in a green cabinet with armor feed.

Whilst hosting the Christmas tree, the square will look eye catching and help to set the winter scene whilst offering protection to the tree and lights.

Out of the Christmas season, the square would be used to display artwork, house entertainment type activities such as puppet shows and be rented out to small independent or start up food/craft outlets that do not compete with local businesses. Giving such organisations the opportunity to test the market at a low rate.

This would be an added attraction on the Fairground, providing an extra amenity and helping to increase footfall to the village.

Costs

The cost of the project will be up to £20,000 plus VAT

Recommendation

To approve a budget of up to £20,000 to enable the project to progress.

The Fairground Trustees have been informed and have given their agreement.

SH/LH 06/10/2022