

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE	16 JULY 2020	AGENDA ITEM: 8(ii)
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

### **PROPOSED DESIGN FOR A VOTIVE STAND IN THE CEMETERY CHAPEL AND A MEMORY TREE FOR THE CEMETERY GROUNDS**

#### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to ask Members of the Environment & Leisure Committee to give consideration to a suggestion that has been considered by the former Chair of the Committee, Councillor Whattler, Councillor Harvey and the Clerk.

#### **Detailed Information**

Following lock down the Clerk approached the former chairs of the Environment & Leisure Committee and the Finance, Policy & General Purposes with a suggestion of purchasing a Votive stand for the Cemetery Chapel.

A Church Votive stand is used for placing lit candles on, usually in memory of a loved one, and the Clerk asked the former chairs whether it might be something the Council would like to consider purchasing in readiness for when life can back to normal. The suggestion is that a Votive stand could be purchased so that when the lockdown eases the cemetery chapel could be opened to the public to offer them the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones, and it would offer an opportunity for families who had not been able to be present at funerals during the lockdown to remember their loved ones and help them with the grieving process.

When the suggestion was made, Councillor Harvey suggested it might be better to commission a design specific to Ledbury for the Votive Stand rather than just purchase a standard design. She also suggested looking into a structure along the lines of a Memory Tree being designed to be placed in the grounds of the cemetery, which would allow the placing of an engraved leaf with loved one's names on. Following this suggestion, a number of organisations were contacted to see if this would be something they could provide along with the request for some possible designs. An example of a Votive stand is attached, which is based on the Market House in Ledbury.

The feedback from most of the companies/organisations about this was that in order for them to be able to provide examples they would need to create designs rather than just provide them on paper and that this would incur costs for materials and therefore unfortunately we have not been able to progress this very far.

Therefore, the purpose of this report is to ask Members of the Committee to consider whether they wish to consider having a Votive Stand and/or a Memory Tree for the cemetery and if so how they would wish to proceed with each project.

## **Financial Implications**

The Votive design attached has been provided by a company who is just starting out in business, who had been recommended by one of the companies that we had approached, however, the cost for this is considerably higher than you would expect to pay for a standard Church Votive Stand. If you were to purchase a standard votive stand the vary in price from anything from £350 upwards, depending on the size and design. However, if you were to commission a bespoke design, similar to the one attached, this is likely to be in the region of £5,000 - £10,000, as you would be paying for the individuality of the piece as well as the design, prototype preparation and final product. Members would need to consider whether they feel a Votive stand is something they wish to purchase and if so do they want to purchase a standard style Votive similar to those in the pictures attached, or a bespoke design specific to Ledbury.

Unfortunately, there are no suggested designs in respect of a Memory Tree, however the suggestion would be to have a structure, possibly of a weeping tree, with the ability to have engraved leaves secured to the branches of the tree. The leaves would need to be secure enough to withstand high winds and to avoid being removed by vandals, whilst being low enough for relatives to view and read them. This as a project is much more difficult than the Votive Stand and it is likely the cost of this would be more than that of the Votive.

It is important for Members to consider that no funds have been placed in the 2020/21 budget for either of these projects and therefore it may not be possible to purchase them until such time funds are available within an annual budget. Alternatively, if members were to agree to purchase a standard style Votive Stand this could be purchased for around £400/£50 which it may be possible to fund from the 2020/21 budget.

## **Recommendation**

That Members give consideration to the information provided above in relation to the possible cost for the purchase of a Church Votive Stand and/or Memory Tree for the Cemetery decide whether they wish to purchase either of these and if so how they would wish to proceed for example:

- a. Purchase a standard Votive stand. or
- b. Commission a bespoke design Votive stand, indivial to Ledbury
- c. Commission a bespoke design for a Memory Tree

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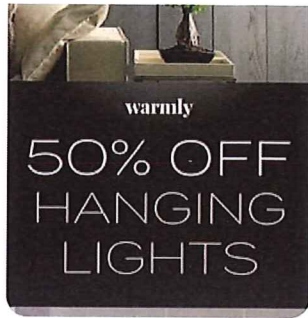
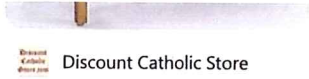
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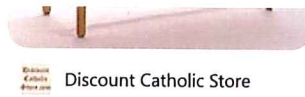
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