

<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &amp; PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>10 SEPTEMBER 2020</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

## **LANDSCAPING ADJACENT TO THE MASTERS HOUSE**

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to give consideration to correspondence received from Councillor Harvey (Ward Member, Ledbury North), in respect of landscaping adjacent to the Master’s House, Ledbury.

### **Detailed Information**

Below is an extract from an email received by the Town Mayor, from Councillor Harvey, in her role as a Herefordshire Council Ward Councillor in respect of the future of the landscaping adjacent to the Master’s House, Ledbury.

*“I would like to ask you if you could seek the views of the stakeholder group you represent on whether you think it desirable and feasible for Ledbury to come together to take a bottom-up, community-led approach to the delivery of the landscaping of the long-promised public square adjacent to the Master’s House and the layout and resurfacing of the car park.*

*Herefordshire Council have commissioned and approved a design for the landscaping, but this doesn’t deliver all the things that local stakeholders thought should be included if the end result is to provide the town with the public space that has been anticipated, for so long.*

*Similarly, the council has its preferred layout for the car park when it is resurfaced as part of the landscaping project, but this again does not address all the requirements of the original Lottery grant for creating a garden setting for the Master’s House in its fully restored state and doesn’t include many of the good ideas for the car park which were brought forward by the local experts working with the restoration team during the renovation of the Master’s House.*

*Herefordshire Council property services have not obtained a response to their tender for the work to be completed which comes within the budget allocated and we are currently at an impasse.*

*The new Independent administration at Herefordshire Council takes a much more flexible approach to the delivery of its projects – particularly those with strong community stake holding. Wherever possible, we want to try to maximise the spending of public money in the local economy and want to give communities a more meaningful say in how publicly owned assets are used and invested in.*

With that in mind, I want to test out whether we can get a better outcome from this project for Ledbury if there is a much stronger local lead on its delivery.

*Consequently, I would like to ask you for your reaction to **the idea in principle** of a community-led approach to delivering this project locally.*

*If enough stakeholders think this is worth exploring further – I will set up an online meeting for representatives from local stakeholder groups, interested businesses, and council officers to discuss the options in more detail.*

*Thank you for your consideration and assistance in exploring a way forward for this project.”*

At the previous meeting of the Economical Development & Planning Committee, Councillor Knight made members aware that a number of residents had raised concerns with her in respect of the Landscaping, in particular the money that the Master's House had spent so far and the money which had been put aside for the landscaping which has yet to be used.

### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to give consideration to the proposal from Councillor Harvey in respect of the idea in principle of a community-led approach for the delivery of the landscaping project at the Master's House