
Report To: Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee **Date:** 06 November 2023

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Graffiti Mural update

1. Paint-fest Mural Artists

1.1 At the September 2023 meeting of this Committee, a report on options for graffiti removal were considered and it was requested that an invitation be made to the organisers of Paintfest for mural art in West Swindon.

1.2 Paintfest have responded with the following

An overview for artist's costs:

- **The size of the wall** (it can be charged per sq feet, or a fixed fee set aside for the artist fairly accordingly factoring on size of wall and workdays, then the other expenses listed that follows)
- **wall condition** (i.e. surface condition, whether needs priming/prepping)
- **materials**, whether it needs any equipment for access i.e. height.

1.3 *The usual charge per square feet can vary from 30£/per sq feet to 100£ per sq feet according to artist as well as condition of the wall, and type of artwork design.*

1.4 Murals can create a bright statement that impacts on the neighbourhood. The Parish Council could consider a phased approach if preferred.

1.5 In the September report, the Committee was advised that there was a more effective method of graffiti removal than the overpainting currently deployed. The Parish Council could shift away from over painting and replace with high pressured graffiti removal. This approach consumes lower staffing levels and can be used all year round. This would be a more efficient approach to graffiti removal and would assist in graffiti removal being tackled more often. A suitable pressure washer would be in the region of £3-4,000 for a vehicle mounted machine or £14,000 for a towable machine. It would be more effective to have the flexibility of purchasing a mounted machine with a separate trailer – costs in the region of £5,000.

2. Costs

2.1 West Swindon Parish Council has 17 subways. The average subway is 95 m². Assuming the lower cost range of £30 m², an average subway would

cost a total of £2,850 and 17 subways a total of £48,450. It is likely that these would be the minimum costs and would not take into account any sacrificial coatings or repair work.

3. Budget

- 3.1 The Parish Council has not factored mural costs for public open spaces into its annual budget for 2023, it could be factored into the next year's budget or, an existing budget could be reallocated.
- 3.2 The Parish Council has a budget allocation of £10,000 for 'Machinery' which could accommodate the purchase of a cleaning machine and trailer.

4. Financial & Other Implications

- 4.1 Consideration would need to be given as to whether this is an effective response, generally mural art work is respected and tagged at a lower rate than non art work spaces.
- 4.2 Remedial or repair costs would need to be met by the Parish Council.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That this Committee notes the information in this report in order to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of introducing murals.
- 5.2 That this Committee makes a recommendation to purchase a high pressure washer and trailer up to a combined value of £10,000.

Paula Harrison, Parish Manager