

This matter was discussed under Minute 48

LISTED BUILDINGS WORKING PARTY

Air Raid Shelter

A thorough site visit was conducted with the land managers PHP and the Town Council Estates & Facilities Manager and deputy back in February, where the plans previously sent were viewed again and discussed.

It was agreed that any legal agreement should be kept as simple as possible and planting up for Autumn 2022 was desired.

Since then, PHP have had multiple discussions with their legal advisors and the costs, which are for 3 lease variations for their tenants plus a new lease for the Town Council involvement would cost between £7,000 and £9,000.

Unfortunately, on challenging the amounts, the representative from PHP stated the legal team held firm. They are now looking to the Town Council for a 'substantial contribution.'

Members discussed that it was a disappointingly high figure, and although recognised that we should preserve the history of the town for future generations it was felt that the money could have greater positive impact spent on other projects.

It was noted that the Residents Association had expressed concern regarding the legal cost impact, and they had previously offered to sponsor the works.

It was recognised that some residents may be disappointed that the project may not progress.

It was then

RECOMMENDED:

That the project is discontinued due to the cost outweighing the benefit to the town.