

Report to recommend approval of the spend for a permanent installation of the painted stones known locally as the 'Portishead Python'

The Portishead Python

Background:

The structure of pebbles and rocks known as "The Python" because of the Python head and tail stones and the shape of the sculpture snaking around the rocks near the Marina Lock gates, was created during lockdown, by the local community children, as a way of lifting peoples spirits on their daily walks. The Python was organised by a group of local residents using the "Portishead Rocks" facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/305204899947550>

It was inspired from another group called Beverley Rocks. People were encouraged to use a variety of decorating materials but to make sure to seal it with outdoor varnish or something similar. Only some of the pebbles have been sealed.

The Python has become a very popular Portishead feature and new pebbles continued to be added and some removed.

The Portishead Rocks community group has requested that The Python that these should be retained for prosperity as a permanent.

After various discussion over the last 18 months the consensus requirement from the Portishead Rocks group is to encase half of the current length of The Python in concrete so it is a permanent feature with the other half of the length being left as a "Living sculpture" for people to add and remove pebbles as they wish.

Given this requirement, PTC contacted 5 different suppliers to quote for undertaking the work. Only one supplier responded, "Supplier A" and provided a formal quote.

The quote received was for £2,732.24 excluding VAT, £3,278.69 inclusive of VAT

This quote is to provide the cement and labour to undertake the install for half of the length of the length of the current Python in concrete.

It excludes any cost or supply or application of a protective concrete coating. An allowance of £200.00 inclusive of VAT should be made to purchase a clear protective concrete coating. It will be applied by volunteers.

A total budget of £3850 is suggested to include the supplier quote + protective coating + 10% contingency to deal with any unknown extras or price rises.

The Portishead Rocks group is identifying which pebbles and rocks to keep and will organise a re-paint and varnish of them where necessary, ahead of the encasement.

It was agreed that the community group would investigate options on the protective glaze.

Recommendation:

To agree a budget of up to £3850 inclusive of VAT and for the installation of a permanent Python solution to be provided by "Supplier A" and delegate authority to the PTC Project Manager and Cllr Gardner to instruct the Supplier and work with the Portishead Rocks group to complete the installation.

Author & Date: Lin Sargent 21.09.22