

AGATHA CHRISTIE BENCH AND PLINTH

Recommendation:

That the Town Council enters into an arrangement with the Women's Institute (WI) in which the WI help with the maintenance of the Agatha Christie bench and plinth

1. Purpose

This proposal seeks Full Council approval to recommend that the Women's Institute (WI) assist in the maintenance of the Agatha Christie bench and plinth in Wallingford. Specifically, this would include the regular waxing, cleaning, and general care required to preserve these important town landmarks.

2. Background

The Agatha Christie bench and plinth are significant fixtures in Wallingford, honouring the world-renowned author who lived in the town. As a popular site for tourists and residents alike, it is important to ensure these commemorative pieces are kept in good condition.

Due to the exposure to weather and environmental factors, the bench and plinth require routine waxing and cleaning to maintain their appearance and protect them from wear and tear. In order to support the upkeep of this local heritage, the Council recommends reaching out to the WI for their assistance.

3. Detailed proposal

The Full Council is requested to approve a formal recommendation to approach the Women's Institute (WI) with a request for the following support:

1. Regular Maintenance: The WI would assist in the regular waxing and cleaning of the Agatha Christie bench and plinth to ensure they remain well-preserved and protected from the elements.
2. Community Involvement: The WI's involvement in this initiative would foster a stronger connection between local community groups and the town's heritage, encouraging a sense of shared responsibility.

3. Collaboration with the Town Council: The WI would work in partnership with the Town Council's maintenance team to ensure that proper standards are followed and that the upkeep tasks are conducted at appropriate intervals.

4. Benefits of the approach

- Preservation of Heritage: Regular care of the Agatha Christie bench and plinth will enhance Wallingford's cultural and historical appeal.
- Strengthening Community Ties: Involving the WI offers an opportunity to engage a key local organisation, increasing community participation in town projects and fostering civic pride.
- Cost and Resource Sharing: The WI's assistance can help alleviate the Council's financial and labour commitments, enabling more efficient use of town resources.

5. Conclusion

The Agatha Christie bench and plinth are valuable parts of Wallingford's cultural heritage. With the support of the Women's Institute, we can ensure that these items are properly maintained for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The Council recommends moving forward with this collaboration to protect and preserve this important aspect of our town.

Cllr Steve Holder,
17 September 2024