

Agenda item 4

For decision – Fingerpost signage

Author: Jane Llewellyn, Planning & Development Manager

Summary

To update on the next steps for the installation of the fingerpost signage and to agree the additional costs for manufacture and installation

In 2017, Frome Town Council received some funding from Network Rail towards replacing the existing fingerpost signs and to install additional signs to provide directions to/from the train station and the Town Hall. This scheme and the design of the fingerposts was agreed by the previous administration.

There have been a lot of delays associated with the project: firstly, establishing who owned and maintained the signage, and then getting the necessary drawings, surveys, permissions, and licences to replace them.

Cllrs received an update on the fingerpost project in September 2021, advising that it was close to completion and that we were awaiting the approval of the licence from Somerset County Council to replace the six existing signs and install seven additional signs. Notices were erected by SCC in September 2021 inviting representations and following a few small amendments in response to the representations received, the signed licence was received in January 2022.

The new fingerposts will provide consistency throughout the town. The names, font and colour of the text on some of the existing posts are inconsistent (e.g., Black Swan Arts is sometimes referred to as 'Black Swan' or 'Black Swan Guild'). Some fingerposts require realignment, all need extensive restoration.

New signage will be provided for a "Scenic Route" to the Railway Station which follows Willow Vale and the National Cycle Route 24. We will also be installing 6 new fingerpost signs to provide directions for key pedestrian routes within the Town Centre to sign the following routes.

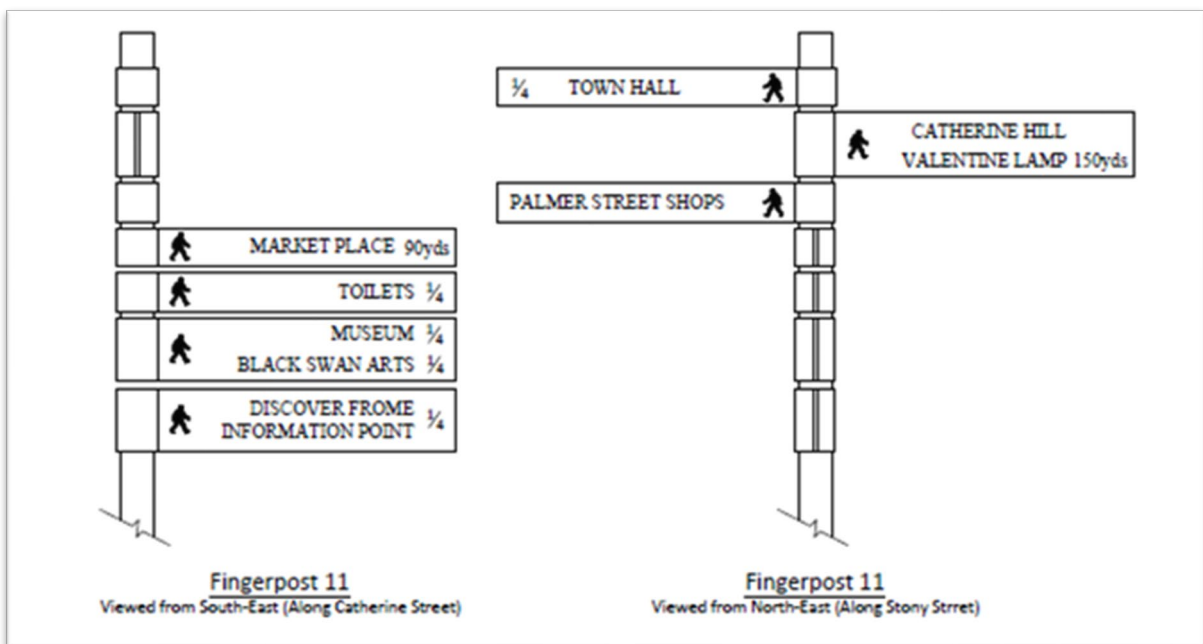
- between the Railway Station and Town Hall
- between the Railway Station and Town Centre
- between the Town Centre and the Town Hall

[A plan showing the location of all the fingerposts can be viewed on the website Appendix 5](#)

Example of existing signage



Example plan showing the proposed contemporary signage



We paid Fitzpatrick Woolmer £12,070 in March 2017, which was grant funding received from Network Rail. As the grant funding had to be spent within a certain time frame, Fitzpatrick Woolmer agreed they would take payment in advance of the scheme being completed. We have also paid the licence fee of £1,700 to SCC and £1000 for plans prepared by IMA utilising the Fingerpost EMR budget.

Prior to progressing the order with the supplier Fitzpatrick Woolmer, I asked for an updated quote bearing in mind the time since the last quote was received. The cost has increased due to increases in the cost of materials and more signs being added throughout the project. In the update last September, Cllrs were advised that the additional costs would be covered by existing EMRs.

I have also been advised to allow for a contingency sum of £1500 for any problems when installing the new signage; any problems will only become apparent once the existing posts are removed. Issues could include the size of the foundation required and the amount required to infill.

**The revised costs are set out below –**

• Revised quote	£26,078
• Less amount paid on original order	£12,070
• Balance	£14,008
• Contingency Sum	£1,500
• Total Balance outstanding (including contingency)	<b>£15,508</b>

**Proposed financing of the balance**

Cllrs were previously advised that the additional fees would be paid out of existing EMRs. However, due to the increase in costs, additional funds will be required to complete the project. These are proposed below.

• Existing EMR 348 Signage	£3,055
• Existing EMR 346 Walkers	£1,598
• Proposed Micro Enterprises support	£5,993 (21-22 budget)
• Proposed Saxonvale Legacy Fund	£4862

**Recommendations**

Agree additional budget to complete the project from the following budget and EMR:

- a. £3,055 from existing EMR 348 Signage
- b. £1,598 from existing EMR 346 Walkers
- c. £5,993 from the Micro Enterprises support budget
- d. £4862 from the EMR Saxonvale Legacy Fund