

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Tower, Millrise, Kidsgrove (Ref: 19/20002/HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Working Party indicate its views on proposals going to the Planning Committee that:-

- 1. £1,090 is provided towards masonry repair and vegetation removal at the tower, subject to the appropriate standard conditions**

Purpose of report

To inform the Working Party of an application for financial assistance towards the cost of masonry repairs and vegetation removal at the tower, and give the Working Party an opportunity to express its views on the application.

The tower is a Grade II Listed Building. It is in a ruinous state and is on the Council's Building at Risk Register. The building is thought to be a former late 18th century windmill (although the listing description was amended from Old Windmill to say Tower). The Council acquired the structure from the former owner by gift in 1985.

Following the Buildings at Risk Survey in 2016, the Council's Conservation Officer approached the Facilities Management Section of the Council to see if a survey could be initiated to identify any structural and safety issues the structure may have. Last year the Council undertook the survey and the Conservation and Heritage Fund contributed £138 towards the cost of the survey at £690 with a Historic Building Grant.

The report did not find any significant issues for the tower and the larger cracks appear historic with no signs of recent movement or deterioration. Some maintenance is required to remove tree growth and re-bed loose masonry especially around the perimeter of the tower, and this is proposed to be undertaken shortly. Three competitive quotations by appropriately qualified contractors have been sought to undertake this work and have been presented with the application for grant aid.

The total cost of the initial survey is quoted at £5,451.15, excluding VAT. VAT is recoverable so the grant has not been calculated on this basis. The works are eligible for a grant of up to 20% or up to a maximum of £5,000.

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet these grant applications with approximately £27,324 in the Fund allowing for commitments.