

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund

St Margarets Primary School, Knutton Road, Wolstanton (Ref: 24/25005HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

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

£5,000 Historic Building Grant be given towards conservation repairs at the school.

Purpose of report

To inform the Working Party of applications for financial assistance towards the cost of the works and give the Working Party an opportunity to express its views on the application.

The application is for conservation repairs of the school building, principally on elevations within the courtyard and on Knutton Road. The School is a Grade II Listed Building by James Brooks, an influential London architect in 1871, built from brick with stone dressings. The building is also within the Wolstanton Conservation Area.

The windows are mullioned and recessed behind short columns with turned capitals and bases. Some of the columns are showing signs of disrepair and under this project one will be repaired, due to costs. Others still have structural integrity so will be dealt with as finances allow later. Timber windows to be replaced like for like or repaired and re-decorated. A historic crack on High Street elevation will be tied with helifix bars (a recognised method to stitch masonry). Repointing with lime mortar will also be undertaken on Knutton Road elevation and in the lower section some masonry will be reinstated and a more appropriate handrail installed. Two doors will also be repaired.

The building is in urgent need of refurbishment. Hopefully the school will continue the repairs and repointing in subsequent years to come.

Entrust manages all schools and their buildings in Staffordshire and they are planning, facilitating and project managing the work. They have been through a procurement process with contractors and received quotations for the work.

The work set out above including VAT and fees is £95,686.55. 20% of this cost is £19,137.31 but as the maximum grant to give within the terms of this fund is £5,000, it is proposed to award the school the maximum grant towards the cost of the works.

Financial Implications

Historic buildings and structures are entitled to apply for up to a maximum of £5,000 from the Conservation and Heritage Grant Fund. The intervention rate is 20% of the cost of the work for Listed Buildings.

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with an allocation this year to the Fund of £16,886. This allows for existing commitments.