

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

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Purpose of report

To enable members to consider the application for financial assistance.

St Margarets Primary School, Knutton Road, Wolstanton

The application is for conservation repairs to 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 only one will be repaired, due to costs. Others still have structural integrity so will be dealt with as finances allow later. This pair of windows will also be replaced like for like with all other windows being repaired and re-decorated. There is a historic crack on the High Street elevation which will be tied with helifix bars (a recognised method to stitch masonry in a relatively non-invasive way) and brickwork made good. A considerable amount of repointing with lime mortar will also be undertaken principally on the 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 a prominent building in the Conservation Area and 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.

The Conservation Advisory Working Party will consider the grant application and their comments reported to the committee.

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. For other historic buildings in the Conservation Area, the intervention rate is 10%.

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.