

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

### **Purpose of report**

To consider an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the repair of the following building of special architectural and historic interest.

### **Garden wall at Roche House, 5 Court Walk, Betely, (Ref: 13/14004/HBG)**

The former walled garden formed part of the Betley Court estate. The wall is 2.5 m high and surrounds the garden on the north and east sides. It was recognised in the Appraisal as an important heritage structure and is now on the Councils Register of Locally Important Buildings. The wall collapsed in January and the owner wishes to reinstate it.

The cost of the work is £16,650 of which all is eligible work. The work has been specified and is being overseen by a structural engineer whose fees are £2,390. The total including VAT is £22,848. As the structure is a historic garden wall on the local Register, the work is eligible for a grant of £2,285, 10% of the cost.

### **Financial Implications**

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with approximately £60,000 in the fund, which allows for commitments.

### **Conclusions**

The building has no economic use and the owner is under no obligation to re-erect the wall which could be replaced by any means of enclosure. The application therefore should be supported through the Councils grant scheme in order that this important part of Betley's historical and architectural heritage is retained for the future. It meets all the Council's criteria for the repair and restoration of the heritage asset. The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Working Party recommends that Planning Committee approves a grant of £2,285 for Garden wall at Roche House, 5 Court Walk, Betely, subject to the appropriate standard conditions.**