

Fletchers Croft Digital Screen installation maintenance update

Briefing Note

The digital Screen in Fletcher's Croft has been broken and left boarded up for some considerable time. At our July 2022 Community Committee meeting we agreed the following:

Fletchers Croft Car Park Digital Screen update, and agree support or otherwise for the proposal from HDC to remove the screen. Committee considered a repurposing of the screen, but also were concerned that HDC had said the reason for possible removal was due to the cost of having to consistently repair it – the point being that it had it seems only be boarded up and never actually repaired. Cllr Goldsmith proposed, seconded by Cllr S Alexander that SPC ask HDC to repair {the screen} and put it back into normal working condition. Agreed 6 For, 1 against.

The office contacted both HDC to relay this message and the Steyning and District partnership for their views and after further discussions and subsequent meetings this has been received by HDC for our deliberations.

Hi John et al

I have now received the cost for repairing the digital screen in Fletchers Croft which is set out below. This is because the penetration of the screen also damaged the internal digital panel. The aerial on the unit has already been replaced several times. This cost is prohibitive and HDC cannot commit that amount of funding, with no guarantee that the screen won't be vandalised again in the future. I am aware that anti-social behaviour is a problem for many of our market towns at the moment.

Aerial = £ 45 + vat
Door = £ 1993 + vat
Panel = £ 3450 + vat

Total = £ 5488 + vat

Total cost = £ 6585.60 in total

I have now had a meeting with Reina from the Community Partnership (copied in) and the proposal that the CP would favour, would be to install a permanent tourist information board to match the other one in Steyning and the one in Bramber at the same location in Fletchers Croft. The image of the existing board from Bramber is attached. The Community Partnership would look after the content of the unit should this be agreed as a way forward.

The cost of the unit in the picture is approx.. £3,000 based on the purchase price of the other two a few years ago.

<https://sas1.co.uk/our-product-range/>

There are, of course, other options for signs which you may want to browse.

I wonder if you could take this information back to the PC for discussion and let me know the outcome? The funding for a new static unit would also need to be sought and should the PC agree that is the best way forward, I will work with Reina to try and find suitable funding sources. £3,000 will be easier to find than £6,585 (I hope).

We will need to seek agreement from the LEADER programme manager at WSCC for a variation to the project, but given the circumstances, I would expect them to see it as a reasonable request.

Thanks
Lynda

This is the message we received in support of Lynda's proposal from Steyning and District Visitor and Tourism rep Reina Alston:

Good to hear that you welcome Lynda's report, and hopefully the Full Council will take on board her findings.

I feel the Partnership would be happier with reverting back to a more classic form of board only because the interaction alternative has not proved to be a success. It was not the fault of anyone that the original touchscreen concept fell out of favour because of Covid. The QR system, which has superseded it, is not convenient for visitors and to my knowledge – and I am often down in Steyning – I have never seen any member of the public engaging with the screen in this way. In fact I have never seen anyone even stop to look at it, as the information contained within it is really not interesting. I think we also all need to be concerned about the continuing hooligan element that is present in Steyning – it is quite alarming. The Food and Drink Festival posters, which I put up on Thursday to promote all the coming events, was vandalised on Monday evening when a noisy and threatening crowd massed in the Bus Stop Shelter at around midnight. One of the residents living opposite the Bus Stop came down from her flat and asked them to quieten down and they then started to rip off all the posters and throw them around. Lucky, they did not spy the moving screen in the High Street Car Park as otherwise it might well have suffered the same fate as the one in Fletchers Croft. It would be irresponsible to invest another large sum of money to replace the smashed screen at the Steyning Centre. Hopefully something along the lines of the boards we have outside the library & within Bramber Car Park would not attract so much attention. We have had one occasion when the library board had some wording daubed on the glass, but this was easily cleaned off.

Anyway, obviously down to the Full Council to decide. Will await that outcome.

Very best wishes,

Reina

Reina Alston (Mrs

CONCLUSION

We need to agree support or otherwise for the HDC proposal please.