

Background

The Town Council currently has 15 metal pole planters in various locations around the town. These planters were acquired in 1989 and are now 35 years old.

**Planter condition**

Each year, following removal, the planters are stored in the Groundsman's shed where they are cleaned and repainted if necessary. Following a recent condition inspection the Groundsman has expressed concern about their condition as on some of the planters, the metal has thinned and eroded especially around the pole. Staff are also concerned about the weight of these planters when fully planted up. They weigh a considerable amount and it takes 2 people to lift them when fully planted. If a planter failed when in place, it could result in a very serious accident were it to fall on someone. In addition to this the planters require frequent watering as they do not have an internal reservoir like the more modern 3 tiered planters. Each planter is 24" (609mm) in diameter.



Options

Repair - It may be possible for a blacksmith to somehow repair the planters to prolong their life. However following discussions with other Town Councils in North Shropshire who were presented with similar planters in 1989 no other Council had this type of planter in use anymore. Therefore it is not known who could carry out a repair of this nature or how much it would cost, the cost of repairing 12 planters could be substantial. This option would not deal with the weight issue.

Replace - As an alternative to the existing planters the council may wish to consider replacing the metal planters with plastic pole topped planters. These come in a variety of colours and have been designed to sit on the top of poles. Each planter has

- a built in reservoir. Capacity of 30 litres
- compost capacity of 52 litres with easily accessible holes for watering and feeding.
- fit onto all standard columns and posts.

At a diameter of 590mm diameter the plastic pole mounted planter is lighter and slightly smaller than the existing metal planters. The approx. cost for a new plastic planter diameter 590mm depth 270mm is £62. They can be viewed here

<https://amberol.co.uk/planters/up-the-pole-baskets/up-the-pole-basket>

Budget

There is currently £500 in earmarked reserves for new planters.

Planter Locations

Metal pole planters are currently placed in the following locations

| Location | Number |
|--|--------|
| High Street. At the rear of the pavement in front of the Church and Church Hall. | 10 |
| High Street. Outside the Library. | 2 |
| Aston Street. Outside the Morgan library | 3 |

The 3 pole planters outside the Morgan Library are not displayed to the best effect due to vehicles now regularly planting on the pavement directly in front of them. It is the opinion of the staff that these would be best removed completely. Should the Morgan Library be reopened then the Council consider this again.

Decision needed

- To agree whether to no longer locate the 3 pole planters outside The Morgan Library.
- To decide whether to attempt to repair the existing metal planters and to seek quotes for their repair or to replace them with plastic pole topped planters at an approximate cost of £800 inc. delivery. The repair or replacement could be carried out using £500 from earmarked reserves with any balance from general reserves.

Agenda item 11b 2025 Supply of Plants for planters quotes

Quotes to be presented at the meeting