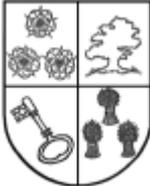


Barton-under-Needwood Parish Council

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Statement on Funding 09-09-2018

There have been many questions about how much money has been spent on the traffic mitigation projects and the Square and where it has come from.

As you may or may not be aware, Staffordshire County Highways received £475K in S106 money from the Bellways development. It was clearly documented in the legal agreement that the monies were to be spent on a school drop off within 18 months or 50 houses being built whichever was the sooner. If that didn't happen the monies would go to Better Barton or some other traffic mitigation project as they saw fit. The costs for the original school drop off were too high and there was no way the county was going to top it up from already scarce funds that needed to be spent on Children's Services or Adult Social Care. They then looked at an alternative solution, just a coach drop off. When the cost of that spiralled again towards £1m they decided to spend the money in Barton on general traffic mitigation using the Better Barton scheme as the ethos of the design. Whilst they have consulted with the Parish Council, County Highways have decided how the monies have been spent and it has gone on a gateway at every entrance, refurbishment of the original eastern and western gateways, an additional 'squeeze' on Upper Main Street, the roundabout at the top of the Efflinch and a squeeze on the Efflinch (these two options being seen as the main mitigation to the extra traffic coming from the Bellways development). They also looked at Main Street and Station Road and particularly the areas affected by the schools. They have done traffic calming measures at the Dunstall Road/Main Street/Church Lane area and are working on a scheme at the Infants School which will require TROs and will take more time. Had these monies not been spent in this way, County Highways would have had to return them to the developers in October 2019.

Whilst the Parish Council have worked closely with County Highways on the project as it evolved from the community led Better Safer Barton project, we are not traffic experts and if you have any issues with how this money has been spent you must talk to your County Councillor or County Highways.

With regards to the Centenary Square and by that we mean the refurbishment of the pavements and the War Memorial area.

The Parish Council had £133,155 for the project. That is made up of £31,155 from Cameron Homes via S106 to be spent on Better Barton (the Square was part of the Node report), £42K from charitable grants and donations – a significant grant from the Barton and Dunstall Key Trust, a personal donation from Simon Clarke and grants from the Staffordshire Safer Roads partnership and the ESBC Neighbourhood Fund. The Parish Council also put in £50K from our reserves we had earmarked for special projects like the Green Machine and buying a new burial ground which have never come to fruition. We have received materials from Aggregate Industries at cost which saved tens of thousands of pounds and we have used local suppliers for the bollards and war memorial refurbishment and we have bought the benches.

We have not spent the full amount and what we have left is earmarked for spending at the Infants School.

You might ask why we have focussed on the Square. We wanted to do something to make the centenary of the end of WW1 as a tribute to the 36 men who died during or as a consequence of the first world war. We also wanted to create an area in the centre of the village where (if anybody would like to consider organising something) events such as a Christmas market. We have looked closely at old pictures of the area and we hope that the flatness resembles what it looked like 100 years ago.



If you look at this picture of the ex-servicemen, you will see the finger post in the background and the toppers and chain we have had restored.



This shows the flatness of the area. Now we do have to accommodate cars these days, but if you stand and look at the refurbished area it endeavours to look like this.



In this photo you will see the grass which we are putting back and the shape of the road very similar to today.

The bollards have been added for pedestrian safety and the street lights are all part of an EON refurbishment programme. We did look at conservation lighting but felt we could not saddle future parish councils with the associated additional maintenance costs.

We hope that answers some of the questions you have naturally raised.