

Policy & Resources Committee, Agenda Item 8, 22 October 2024

Cloister Gardens Power Supply

1. Purpose of Report

Inform members of the current arrangements for access to an electrical power supply in the Abbey Cloister gardens and propose an improvement for future events.

2. Background

Civic and community events held in the Abbey Cloister gardens that require a power supply have, in the past, had to run cables from more than one power socket inside the Abbey, through the Abbey back door. This introduces potential trip hazards in the Abbey and can interfere with other events held inside the Abbey (such as weddings). This also introduces additional setup time and cost for the event.

In discussion with the Abbey church warden, we have devised a solution that provides a single 32A socket at the rear of the Abbey that can be easily accessed by any event held in the Cloister Gardens.

Both the owner of the Cloister Gardens (The Hanks) and the current lease holder (MTC) have expressed a desire to increase utilisation of this facility. A permanent power supply would support this objective.

The proposal is to locate the socket into the blocked off recess toward the northeast corner of the Abbey. In this location the socket is discreetly out of open visual sight and being in the recess affords it protection for the elements, albeit the socket is fully weatherproof.

To protect the Abbey from unexpected high consumption cost, the supply will be metered, although this will initially be used for monitoring purposes rather than to recover costs from the event organiser.

The socket would include an internal 30mA RCD protective device and main switch so it can be isolated internally when not in use.

3. Financial Implications & Risks

The quotation from the Abbey electrical contractors for installation of the socket and meter is £1,500 - £1,600 + VAT

4. Proposal

- A. Approve allocation of MTC funds to deliver this project.
- B. Assuming an element of risk is involved when working within a Grade I listed building, it is proposed that spend on this project is approved up to the value of £1,750 at the discretion of the Town Clerk and Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Steve D'Arcy

16 October 2024