



## Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Title:** Drinking Water Fountains

**Purpose of the Report:**

To endorse purchasing and installing four external drinking water fountains in our larger parks.

**Contact Officer:**

Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

<b>Corporate Objective/s</b>	LLTC Three-Year Plan – Aim 3.  "To provide great public open spaces, varied opportunities for sport and leisure and to exceed expectations in delivering cemetery and allotment services."	
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>	Yes	Funded through an approved capital programme.
<b>Human Resources</b>	No	None.
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>	No	None.
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>	Yes	Classed as permitted development.
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>	Yes	Visual daily inspection required.
<b>Environmental Aims</b>	No	None.

### 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee be minded:-

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To endorse the purchase and installation of 4 ELKAY LK4400BF - EZH2O outdoor bottle filling stations for a total project value of £15,476.50 to be funded from 925/9503 with the available funds of £25,000.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Council resolved that as part of its environmental ambitions, that drinking water fountains would be installed within its larger parks. To support project delivery, £50,000 was earmarked from reserves for this purpose.
- 2.2 The installation, operation and maintenance of public drinking fountains are closely regulated to ensure hygiene and minimise health risks. The Grounds revenue budget will meet all ongoing costs associated with ongoing maintenance.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the water drinking fountains have the function to re-fill water bottles.
- 2.4 Anglian Water has confirmed the responsibility for water quality and water quality testing (including the frequency of testing on the private plumbing system), would sit with the Town Council as the owner of the drinking fountains. To maintain an appropriate water quality standard, water is to be drawn from the mains only thereby negating the need for water testing.
- 2.5 The provision of potable water does come with potential risk and legal implication. Namely, if someone were to do something to the fountain that may cause someone coming after them, who drinks from it, to become ill. The Grounds and Environmental services team could mitigate this through daily visual inspection.
- 2.6 It should be noted that the installation of a drinking water fountain by the Town Council is 'permitted development' under the terms of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and would not require the submission of a planning application.
- 2.7 Parson's Close Recreation Ground, Pages Park, Linslade Memorial Playing Field and Astral Park would be the four parks to have an outdoor bottle filling station.

## **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Officers have reviewed several suitable suppliers and believe that ELKAY LK4400BF - EZH2O outdoor bottle filling stations are best suited to be used in public parks. The costings as set out at recommendation 1.1 are based on the standard green colour. Members can choose another colour if they wish. However, this incurs an additional £410 per unit.