

Report No. 2

Report to P&R 10th October 2017

Request for Part-Funding of a Survey of the Market Cross

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek approval from Committee for half-funding of a £495 photogrammetric survey of the Market Cross.

2. Background

- 2.1 Appendix A from Malmesbury Civic Trust explains the request. The Market Cross is in the Town Council's stewardship.

3. Financial Implications and Risks

- 3.1 If approved, the cost to the Town Council would be £250 payable to Malmesbury Civic Trust.
3.2 No risks are foreseen.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 Members are invited to approve the expenditure of £250.

Cllr John Gundry
2nd October 2017

APPENDIX A

Market Cross Survey Proposal

The Market Cross is one of the most iconic and ancient landmarks in Malmesbury. Built in the late 15th century, it is an extremely fine example of high gothic stone architecture and a rare structure to be found in England. where there is space to trade or sit and stand undercover even today. The closest comparison is the one in Salisbury and Chichester (although West Kirby and Shepton Mallet have similar versions). It has been a focal point of the town since its inception.

It is constructed of limestone which is susceptible to weathering and pollution over time as seen by the wear on some of the carvings. It is also subject to the occasional incident with vehicles causing expensive damage.

Despite this, the Market Cross has never undergone a complete survey, and certainly never one done with the modern technology available now.

An opportunity has arisen to have the historic structure digitally photographed and a complete survey produced by a professional archaeologist and surveyor, Adam Stanford MCIfA FSA of Aerial Cam.

In recent years the emphasis has shifted from pure photographic recording (creating an archive of evidence photographs), to photogrammetric surveying, creating 3D models of evidence in the ground or in building fabric, using the structure from motion (SfM) technique. This specialist archaeological technique employs the latest equipment and software to produce high quality evidence photography and 3D visualization of heritage assets. This will be a great benefit to the town management of its historic environment.

Using the latest available equipment and a telescopic mast the surveyor will photograph and create a 3D model of the Market Cross. The end product will be a permanent record of the condition of the Market Cross and it will provide the Town Council, Historic England and the museum with an visual representation of this beloved historic structure.

It will also provide a permanent and invaluable record of the state of the Market Cross, which can be used to help with future repairs and preservation of the structure. And will enable a fuller record of past repairs to be understood and recorded for future study.

As this is a heritage site, the cost will only be £495 (no VAT). The estimate is one day of work on the project onsite, followed by processing at the office.

Malmesbury Civic Trust has offered to pay £250 pounds toward the cost of the survey. Would the Town Council be willing to pay the remaining half of the costs?

The Civic Trust has also volunteered to manage the project (led by Maria Marsh) as well as undertake the contract with Aerial Cam. They will also ensure that it is done to the highest quality and that it will be done in a timely manner. It will provide a report to the Conservation group and the Town Council.

27 September 2017
Maria Marsh, Malmesbury Civic Trust