

The Tunnels of Malmesbury Exhibition and Event

1) Purpose of the report

To advise the committee of the potential for a joint project with Athelstan Museum and others re 'The Tunnels of Malmesbury' and seek agreement or otherwise to taking part in this project.

2) Background

- a) The recent film "The Mystery of Malmesbury's Tunnels" produced by the Town Council for St. Aldhelm's Day Fair and live streamed on 31st May 2021, has engendered considerable interest from residents and from the Chair of Athelstan Museum. The film featured three locations, but several more have been suggested by local people.
- b) The Chair of Athelstan Museum has suggested an exhibition in the museum at a future date to be agreed. Any exhibition would benefit from further investigation of recent suggestions.

3) Further Considerations

- a) Given the considerable interest shown, there is a possibility that a booklet could be written and printed about the tunnels, written in conjunction with the museum and others.
- b) Further to an exhibition and possibly an accompanying booklet, the opening of the exhibition could be marked with an event and a talk, which could also be recorded and livestreamed from the Town Council Facebook Page and posted to the Town Council Youtube for the residents and the general public to view.

4) Financial implications and risks

- a) There will be costs associated with the project which are as yet unknown, but a budget will need to be set by the Committee should the project progress and depending on what options are pursued.
- b) In the event a jointly produced booklet be printed, but thereafter sold by the Museum, then this will need to be factored into the budget.

5) Proposals

- a) To seek agreement to research and take part in a joint project with Athelstan Museum and others re 'The Tunnels of Malmesbury' as outlined in this report.
- b) If participation is agreed, then to propose the setting up of a Working Party to report back to this committee.
- c) If a Working Party is to be set up, then to seek nominations for membership.

6) Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the proposals and if in agreement to action, as proposed.