

	Meeting (No)	Community & Environment (8)	
	Date	5 December 2023	
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Town Council Noticeboards			CE8/89

Introduction

Members requested that condition of noticeboards be considered as an agenda item due to concerns about the condition of some of the boards, particularly in Parkgate and West Vale.

Background

Five wooden noticeboards were installed in 2010, one in each of the five wards (Little Neston, Ness, Neston, Parkgate and Riverside). The number of wards was later reduced to three (Little Neston, Neston and Parkgate).

Various small repairs have been made to the boards since 2010 such as replacing hinges and locks, applying exterior wood treatment and repairing some of the back boards.

Assessment of Current Condition

Visually, none of the noticeboards would currently be categorised as excellent or very good. For the purposes of this assessment, however, we have concerned ourselves with stability, functionality and whether the boards remain water-tight.

Little Neston (corner of Ivy Farm Dr/Town Lane)	Structurally stable. Council side locks do not work.
Ness (Neston Rd, opposite Smithy Close)	Structurally stable and in a usable condition. This noticeboard is attached to a wall which provides some protection from the elements. Two damaged locks have recently been replaced with a more robust single lock.
Neston (Town Hall)	Structurally stable and in a usable condition. This noticeboard is attached to a wall which provides some protection from the elements. Both locks are in working order.
Parkgate (Mostyn Square)	Structurally poor. Exposed location. Only one lock in working order. Water ingress.
Riverside (West Vale shops)	Structurally stable. Community side cannot be opened as bottom knob does not turn. Council side locks do not work and temporary, handmade 'lock' has had to be added.

Replacement Options and Costs

In October 2022, we enquired about the cost of purchasing a free-standing aluminium noticeboard similar to the one pictured below. The cost in 2022 was estimated to be between £1,000 and £1,700, depending on the specification. In addition to this

purchase, we would need to factor in the cost of removing the existing board, making good the ground and installing the replacement board.



For Discussion and Decision

Councillors will wish to discuss whether a schedule of replacement is required and, if so, which boards should be prioritised and whether the Council should retain five boards or reduce the number to three.

There are insufficient funds to replace any boards during the current financial year. Councillors will need to decide whether to include a sum for replacement in the C&E budget request for 24/25.

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