

Subject: Use of the Coat of Arms of the Former Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Council

Date: 27th March 2007

Report of: Executive Director of Resources

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision:

NO Ceremonial matter for Council Approval

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek the Council's approval for the use of the Coat of Arms of the former Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup by the Close to the Hedge Project which has assumed responsibility for the former municipal greenhouses at Stubbylee Park.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report do not directly impact upon the corporate priorities, although they do assist with the promotion of a sense of civic pride and community identity which are important aspects of vibrant and sustainable communities.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- *Reputational Risks* –These occur if the coat of arms is misused or associated with activities which might be perceived to bring the Council into disrepute, These risks are mitigated through the suggested terms of use for the Coat of Arms which members are asked to consider in this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Close to the Hedge Project, which has taken over the running of the former municipal greenhouses at Stubblelee Park as a social enterprise has approached the Council seeking permission to use the Coat of Arms of the former Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup I as part of its branding.
- 4.2 Following the dissolution of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup Council in 1974 ownership rights over its coat of arms passed to this Council as the relevant successor authority. As use of the Coat of Arms is a ceremonial matter decisions in relation to this remain with the Full Council.
- 4.3 The proposal from the Close to the Hedge Project is to use the Coat of Arms as part of the identity and branding for the project on items such as letter heads invoices, leaflets, advertisements and other promotional materials.
- 4.4 The proposal from the Project would not seem to present any risk that the Council's reputation would be damaged through association of the Coat of Arms with inappropriate activities, and if members are minded to agree to the request a restriction to these uses and the nature of publications in which the coat of arms might be published can be stipulated in the agreement with the project which can be implemented through exchange of letters.
- 4.5 Ward members for the area covered by the former Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup have been consulted by e mail on this matter and two positive and one neutral response have been received.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the Report.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications attached to the proposals in this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Bacup coat of arms is currently not used, therefore there is no risk of confusion arising from granting permission to use it to the Close to the Hedge Project. It is also possible to write safeguards to the Council's reputation into the agreement.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the Council agree to the use of the Coat of Arms of the former Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup by the Close to the Hedge Project on the terms set out in paragraph 4.4

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Informal consultation by e mail with ward members representing the area covered by the former Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Bacup.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Letter on behalf of the Close to the Hedge Project	Futures Park Offices