

DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

23 FEBRUARY 2022

FAIRFIELD LINNEYS

1. The Fairfield Linneys are two lengths of animal sheds, one backing onto properties in Great Western Road (North Linney), the other onto Fairfield Road (South Linney). Each linney is c.100m in length and consists of a tiled roof supported by wooden posts, subdivided by wooden/metal fencing. The Linneys were features of the site when it was a cattle market and continue to exist because of the Conservation Area status of the site.
2. The constructions themselves currently serve no practical purpose. South Linney is used for car parking. The western end of North Linney is accessible for some cars, while the eastern end has been chain-fenced off due to the low height of the stalls. They do, however, provide shelter and from time to time are used by rough sleepers and occasionally by young people for gathering. Sadly, the Linneys do suffer from vandalism and can also become littered. A recent occurrence of anti-social behaviour in January resulted in significant damage to the tiled roof and extensive and offensive graffiti in South Linney.
3. While immediate repairs have been actioned, including the removal of damaged tiles and painting over the most offensive graffiti, the Linneys are now in poor condition and still need a significant amount of work.
4. Dorset Council Property Services has obtained a quote for the repainting of the walls of both Linneys, c. 400m² metres in total, at c. £10,000 to make good and coat with anti-graffiti paint. Irrespective of the long term future of the Linney roofs, the N. Linney walls are essential as a boundary with residential properties in Great Western Road, and it is also unlikely that the wall bounding Fairfield Road will be removed. These works have therefore been actioned to minimise the risk of a repeat damage. The works can be accommodated by the Panel's maintenance budget.
5. Officers will also implement other remedial works aimed at limiting future damage
 - Litter will be removed from the caged area of the North Linney
 - Guttering will be removed from the Linneys – it serves no useful purpose and is an easy target for vandalism
 - Consideration is being given to extending the cage in the North Linneys to a natural break point where there is an existing breeze block wall.
7. When resources permit, Officers will prepare a report for the Panel to give more detailed thought to the long-term future of the structures, which are looking increasingly worn and will inevitably continue to suffer periodic bouts of anti-social behaviour.

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Dorset Council