Leisure & Recreation Committee

Report: Repainting The Blondinis at St Marks Park
Date: 12.11.2026
Report author: Andrew Briggs, Operations Manager

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval to refresh the paintwork on The Blondinis sculpture at St Mark's Park, using EMR 339 – Green Flag towards the cost, and to arrange an assessment of damage to the base before works proceed.

2. Background and current condition

The Blondinis were last repainted in 2021 and now require a refresh. The photographs show areas of worn, flaking and missing paint on the figures and the supporting ball. Repainting would improve the appearance of the sculpture and renew its protective finish.

Tim Carroll, the artist who carried out the previous repaint, is still working and has provided a quotation. His familiarity with the sculpture provides continuity with the earlier work.

The base and surrounding concrete also show visible deterioration, including a worn area and localised damage around the sculpture's mounting. Repairs may be necessary. However, the additional concrete was installed as a protective mowing strip (not structural).

A wider observation of the park's condition has also identified deterioration to sections of the tarmac paths. The additional photographs show cracking, surface loss and localised potholes. These areas will require assessment to establish the extent and priority of repairs, including any immediate measures needed to address trip hazards and maintain accessible routes. Path repair costs are separate from the sculpture works and have not yet been established.

3. Proposed works

The quotation covers cleaning, sanding and repainting the sculpture, followed by application of an anti-graffiti coating. It allows five days for the main works and a further half-day for the coating. Materials are estimated at approximately £300.

Scaffolding will be required to provide access. An initial officer allowance of £2,000–£3,000 has been used for hire; this is a budget assumption, not a supplier quotation. A written quotation should confirm the hire period and whether delivery, erection, dismantling and any necessary site protection are included.

Officers would coordinate the work with the artist and scaffolding contractor, taking account of suitable weather, coating drying times and public access. Any necessary base repairs should be identified and sequenced before the final decorative finish is applied.

Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499

4. Financial implications

Cost item	Amount
Cleaning, sanding and repainting — 5 days at £150	£750.00
Anti-graffiti coating application — 0.5 days	£75.00
Paint and anti-graffiti coating — approximate	£300.00
Artist's quoted total	£1,125.00
Scaffolding hire — officer estimate	£2,000–£3,000
Estimated combined cost	£3,125–£4,125
EMR 339 remaining balance	£3,464.03

EMR 339 – Green Flag has a remaining balance of £3,464.03.

At the lower scaffolding estimate, £339.03 would remain in the reserve. At the upper estimate, the project would exceed the balance by £660.97.

The above figures exclude any base or park path repairs and contain no contingency.

5. Recommendations

1. **Approve** in the repainting of The Blondinis (to be completed in Spring 2027) by Tim Carroll on the basis of his quotation of £1,125.

2. **Approve** the use of EMR 339 – Green Flag towards the works, up to its confirmed available balance.

3. **Authorise** officers to obtain a firm scaffolding quotation and confirm the full project cost. If the cost exceeds the confirmed available funding, bring forward a proposal for additional funding before placing orders.

4. **Note** the visible damage to the base and authorise officers to obtain an assessment and repair quotation, with any necessary repairs and associated funding submitted for approval before proceeding.

5. **Note** the wider deterioration of the park's tarmac paths and authorise officers to inspect the affected areas, prioritise repairs and obtain quotations, with a separate costed proposal and funding recommendation brought forward for approval. Any immediate safety concerns should be addressed through the Council's existing maintenance arrangements.

Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499

Appendix A Current Condition



Worn paintwork on the figures and supporting ball.



Visible deterioration to the base and surrounding concrete.





Andrew Briggs – Ops@centralswindonnorth-pc.gov.uk / 01793 466499

Appendix B Park Path Condition

Photographs supplied show cracking, surface loss and localised potholes in the tarmac paths.





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