

## BEWDLEY HERITAGE TRUST

### PUBLIC STATEMENT

#### BEWDLEY MUSEUM AND QUEEN ELIZABETH II GARDENS

In 2020 Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) decided to divest itself of Bewdley Museum and QEII Gardens (the Museum) in Bewdley. In June last year, following a public advertisement, seven local trustees were appointed by WFDC to form an independent charitable trust that was expected to operate and maintain the Museum. We stepped up and commenced our work as voluntary, unpaid trustees immediately and have worked hard over the last 12 months to try to achieve this objective.

Given our considerable commitment over this last year, our love for the Museum, and our admiration for the work of the Museum's staff, it is with great sadness that we have unanimously agreed that we are unable to take the project any further. We were not able to secure an agreement with WFDC that would give us the confidence that the new project would be financially viable in its critical early years. To go ahead would, we believe, have run counter to our legal duties as charity trustees.

WFDC has been informed of our decision. Councillors will now need to consider an alternative future for the Museum without us.

We would have loved to have offered the Museum and Gardens a sustainable long-term future, and we sincerely hope that it remains a thriving, treasured part of our local heritage.

15 June 2022

Bewdley Heritage Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission. Registration number 1198713

Any correspondence with Bewdley Heritage Trust should be directed in the first instance to the Chair, Matthew Terry: [bewdleyheritagetrust@gmail.com](mailto:bewdleyheritagetrust@gmail.com)