

To:
All members of the
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Please reply to:
Contact: Michelle Beaumont
Service: Committee Services
Direct line: 01784 446240
E-mail: m.beaumont@spelthorne.gov.uk
Date: 19 January 2021

Supplementary Agenda 2

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday, 19 January 2021

Dear Councillor

I enclose the following items to be considered with the agenda for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, 19 January 2021:

6. The Lower Sunbury Lendy Memorial Lion

3 - 16

To make a recommendation to Cabinet in relation to the Lower Sunbury Lendy memorial Lion.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Beaumont
Corporate Governance

To the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors:

V.J. Leighton (Chairman)
O. Rybinski (Vice-Chairman)
C.L. Barratt
J.H.J. Doerfel
J.T.F. Doran

R.D. Dunn
T. Fidler
M. Gibson
A.C. Harman
I.T.E. Harvey

N. Islam
T. Lagden
L. E. Nichols
D. Saliagopoulos

Spelthorne Borough Council, Council Offices, Knowle Green

Staines-upon-Thames TW18 1XB

www.spelthorne.gov.uk customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk telephone 01784 451499

Direct Messages against removal

how about fixing the problems in spelthorne before being idiots and destroying historical statues – XX

You're a disgrace! – XX

Think you better take note on what your saying about statues and monuments in the local areas and give the people the vote before you remove anything – XX

So our history can't be shown? I would like my child to learn about the history of her country in the future but I guess instead taking of her out into the open air, it looks like she'll have to learn about it from a computer screen! Ridiculous. - XX

So has our council decided to join in with the thugs in London to destroy our history. – XX

Facebook replies against removal

XX - History is history - preserve and protect it - no need for a debate is there?

XX - Thought history was history. It was there to reminds us not to go or do that again. What you going to do,sweep it under the carpet and say that it never happen

XX - you going to be going into the Libraries & burning books people don't like as well?

XX -thank you. A review is important. I am not okay with continuing to glorify this statue after learning of its conflicted history. An additional plaque clarifying the whitewashing of its history and how we do not continue to uphold them would be something we could all learn from

XX It's been flagged for the atrocious crimes one of the Lendy brothers committed in murdering African tribes with machine gun fire. It seems like the other brother played a part in rescuing slaves so their history seems complicated and conflicting. Would be nice for us all to learn more about it

XX unfortunately with history we don't get to pick and choose just the good bits. We have committed horrible things in the past. I know it's a uncomfortable to learn the atrocities but we have a duty to learn and become better people by not blindly ignoring the history because it's not pretty.

XX this lion is for the Lendy brothers. Right now it's there to remind people how amazing and heroic they were without mention of the crimes they've committed. I think discussing how best to represent our history whilst also making sure people understand the injustices is an important discussion to be had.

XX they were regarded heroes yes...but they murdered African tribes. The statue does not tell of the horrible crimes it represents it just states they were heroic. The council have a responsibility to not whitewash our history but to represent it in the best way.

XX - Who are you to decide this? No-one is blindly ignoring history. However, these men served their country and this statue should remain.

XX - Wow hard u turn much

XX - XX cum naiba nu esti tu OKay in UK ? a minority-romanian, is not ok in the welcoming country: go home

XX - XX this is a statue much loved by many Spelthorne residents. They were the heroes of their time and army officers, certainly not criminals.

XX - XX oh hey a racist. 🖐

XX - XX they are not whitewashing history, this is a memorial to two men who died in service of their country.

XX - XX is right, the statues should state the truth of what happened not just half truths. History should state the facts, the full facts and not just pick the parts it likes. A new plaque with this information should be put in place.

XX - It feels to me that if you are even considering which statues are and are not appropriate you are bowing to pressure for a pretty small minority of idiots that want history to be forgotten. We forget history at our own peril. Taking down the statues would be simply forgetting history, both good and bad.

XX - XX why dont you read up about this statue!!
XX why so rude ??

XX - XX not having this very important discussion is blindly ignoring this. The council have stated they want to discuss how best to represent history and there is a mob of people arguing against a discussion. The statue has no information on the atrocities committed and I'm sure most people don't sit and research it

XX - XX yea if she had discussed things. She said I'm not welcome here and to go back to my country. We are talking about a statue. There's no use throwing insults around, dont defend that.

XX - In most people's eyes, this is not an important discussion. How to represent history? Really? We are not a mob; we are people who love where they live, the history of the borough, being English. It's only a tiny minority who want a 'discussion' when really they just want to undermine and destroy our heritage.

XX - XX a dispersal order was recently set by Surrey police due to anti social behaviour including the walled garden and surrounding area. I suspect they're worried about vandalism

XX - XX i won't keep repeating myself so I'll say keep reading and learning on the history of this statue. Judging by the comments on here it's more important than ever that we have a discussion so we can grow and be better human beings. A mob is

squashing the discussion without learning. We should always be alive to other interpretations, reassessments and frank analysis of what our heritage really means. If something is offensive in our modern day reassessment, we should ask ourselves if we continue to uphold those beliefs or make sure that any whitewashed history is rectified so we can all learn from it.

XX - XX yup exactly!

XX - Spelthorne Borough Council history is exactly that & whatever it is should not be erased 😊

XX - XX... one thing that has to be remembered - and which British people generally do not know - Africa is a complicated place too. There is much tribal enmity & rivalry - even today - which is also a source of conflict. You have just sat there and said 'murdered African tribes' without any knowledge whatsoever of what it means because the only thing you think you know is that Africa is black & the British were slavers. So you have already put forward your 'must remove' opinion. The Lendy's were military-oriented and the Lendy you are referring to is likely the one that joined the BSA. There is a saying that 'one man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist'. This has many applications : one man's waste is another man's treasure. One man's hero is another man's criminal. It always depends on which side of the fence you just happen to be. In tribal terms? It depends on which is your ancestral tribe. Perhaps this will give you an insight as to why it is not so easy as to simply sit there and say 'remove it'.

XX - XX I agree it's history is incredibly murky and complicated as I've been doing my research. I actually haven't said we should remove it. I said we shouldn't be whitewashing history and glorifying the past but be presented with the full information...which starts with a discussion on how best to represent this.

XX - <http://chnng.it/85NyMs7v4j> sign the petition and save Lendy!

XX - History should not be eradicated or rewritten to conform to the current narrative. Every country has some bad aspects in its history. If they are covered up or hidden it does not stop the fact that they happened but it could stop future generations from making similar mistakes in the future. The PC brigade are taking over and it is pathetic.

XX - XX ... sure ... but I, for one (a) find a statue of a lion harmless (b) understand it is to commemorate a family that gave up their lives for this country, the military & contributed much to this area, and (c) would really like to know the tribal connections of exactly who has tagged this statue - because if it is just another person who thinks 'oh ... another African died, it must go' then there should be strenuous opposition to that. My point to my post is that the Lendy brothers fought in the service of this country - even if you don't like that time. If one had to dig through the memories of all the people who served in all our wars ... I think one would find many unsavoury acts, unsavoury to us who are not in war and who are not living in the 19th/20th century anymore.

XX - Spelthorne Borough Council political double speak.... press

officer born in 1984? ☺

XX - I suppose London will have to take down Nelson Mandela. After all, its appears ANY crime against humans regardless of how good they have done needs destroying.

XX - So now it's boarded up!! Did the local residents have a say in this?

XX - For goodness sake get a grip. You cannot rewrite history, we have to teach history as it is and celebrate that we have come so far whilst acknowledging there is further to go and more to learn.

XX - XX 1984 beckons... beware the thought police

XX - Like all monuments to our past that Lion has a history, take the time to learn about it. Although I don't support removal of all statues with a history we should no longer be celebrating, I am glad that statue in Bristol has sparked this important conversation.

XX - You mean the vandalism of the statue in Bristol
The man might have owned slaves but he pretty much built the place

XX - XX yes I mean that, yes it was vandalism but it has brought about a very healthy debate. Sometimes these things need to happen for the first and only time.

XX - Healthy debate
Its brought about a bunch of idiots trying to destroy history

XX - Do you have further examples?

XX - XX Would you say the same about the Berlin Wall? It was time for Colston to go. No one had done anything even though promised. Glad it's gone and the others will follow shortly.

XX - In my opinion I think our history is our history and we should not change anything. This is a work of art as are other statues. They should all remain where ever they are. You could add plaques next to these statues explaining that this was not right but policies and beliefs have changed and these views are not held today but it is our history.

XX - XX Exactly!! These people need to read and re-read your comment, then they might, finally, get it.

XX - What is the history of this statue please? I've lived in sunbury all my life and actually don't know so if someone could share that would be great!
Also - this is just under review, not confirmed to be removed as far as it looks so perhaps there is nothing to worry about. What people should be worrying about it ensuring they continue to do their part to eradicate racism, be kind to people and be better human beings for themselves and the future generations

XX - XX I didn't know until recently either! It's been flagged for the atrocious crimes one of the Lendy brothers committed in murdering African tribes with machine gun fire. It seems like the other brother played a part in rescuing slaves so their history seems complicated and conflicting. I would love to see the whitewashing narrative on this statue be rectified so we can all learn from it and like you said be better humans! (Thought I'd post on here too hahah!) x

XX - XX why is it so difficult for individuals to try and research why this may be under review. Consider and empathise with people other than themselves. This simple act of asking a question and seeking information does not hurt anyone and we all learn something

XX - XX <http://www.victorianweb.org/sculpture/warmonuments/9.html>
The Lendy Memorial, Sunbury-on-Thames

XX - XX I hadn't heard before about the machine gunning. It gives pause for thought. For the present I would still prefer him to remain where he is, with our later addition of Pro Patria Mori on the base. He remains for me a memorial to the grief of one family.

XX - XX and looking at your profile you must know the atrocities the church played on Africa & the rest of the world ..may we remove that as well ?

XX - XX I actually have no idea what you've said hahah. It translates to 'shut up, screw it, it's glitter' Hahaha. So it can't have been pleasant. Unless you wanna shower me in glitter? But that's a bit weird I hardly know you.

XX - XX
just leave the lion and take away the plaque... simples !

XX - I was trying to think back today as to what I was taught at school about our history and in particular the slave trade. I don't recollect any lessons covering it so maybe this is a good place to start. Making sure the syllabus in our schools reflect the good and bad in our history. Statues can work both ways a reminder of the good and the bad. Where does it end should we demolish the Colosseum in Rome because it was used to kill christians? I think it's more important to teach our young of the horrors and wrongs of slavery.

XX - It's a very well made lion - it's art.

XX - You had better make sure that every single council tax payer in this borough is personally consulted on ANY decisions made and given a vote. You are here to serve those who live here ... try to remember that? Or you will very quickly find yourselves kicked out of a job at the next elections. ☹️

XX - XX spot on 👍

XX - XX oh come on. You want racist statues?

XX - XX ... get a grip will you ... it's a LION! And, seriously? Are you honestly going to put out here that statues are racist? It's an inanimate hunk of stone.

XX - XX ... darnitall, such a pity, thanks for the info though. Might be an idea actually. 🖤

XX - I hope that when you refer to working with local communities to decide on its fate, that you will be including all of us in Lower Sunbury, and that the views of any residents who wish to give them will be sought and considered.

XX - XX this is ridiculous! Has ANYONE in Sunbury EVER complained about this statue before? I think it's only fair that EVERY resident that lives in the borough gets a say in the future of this statue as we are the ones who use the walled garden on a regular basis and our taxes and council tax help the upkeep of the gardens and the statue. Thank you

XX - XX it's literally mental isn't it!

XX - We're in the middle of a pandemic.... thousands have died and still dying ...that's where the focus should be ! It's really getting ridiculous !
I have total sympathy ...and anger at what has happened ..but at the moment the CV is a much bigger threat than any statues whatever they do or don't represent .. and that's where our priority should lie !

XX - I hope every council tax payer in Spelthorne is consulted and not just selected 'local communities'

XX - It's a UK wide process, not just Spelthorne - and an important one. This should be researched and the brothers' history understood. <https://www.ft.com/.../bd44ed58-adcd-4934-bec4-8edf7fc0e4c2>

XX - The majority of people in this country want our memorials left alone good or bad lest we forget you must not cover up our history stop think do not copy the mob mentality because you think it's pc I want my children to know our true story how we were apart of it and that we were the leader in ending it I think we have in 2015 just paid off our financial responsibilities the African tribes have yet to even apologise ?

XX - My old house in Ashford, and two of its neighbours, are named after battles in the Boer war - are you going to insist these are renamed now? We are in such a ridiculous position where we are pandering to people who have never experienced servitude and who live in a country which treats their diverse population the best in Europe.

XX - Urges us to enjoy it on Friday Then Takes it away & Closes it on Wednesday!! ... Brilliant!!!!

Image may contain: outdoor and nature, text that says '14:13 Spelthorne Borough Council Friday 14:52 mark World Environment Day today June), Spelthorne Borough Council urging residents to appreciate their surroundings <https://bit.ly/2MwjQIl> 🏞

XX - So our history can't be shown? I would like my child to learn about the history of her country in the future but I guess instead taking of her out into the open air, it looks like she'll have to learn about it from a computer screen! Ridiculous.

XX - XX excellent point. And surely one of many similar worthwhile opinions that should be aired in this debate.

XX - XX amazing response. Saville gave millions to charity but we wouldn't put up a statue would we?

XX - So apparently the monument is on the list of a group that call themselves "topple the racists". It makes sense to close the garden if people are planning to ruin it.

XX - Could it not just be covered up until it's fate has been decided so people can continue to enjoy the garden which has only just reopened after lock down?

XX - Get a grip its history

XX - XX history can exist in museums also, I'd much rather be faced with a statue of someone who changed Britain for the better than someone who aided in an awful part of the past. Statues aren't erected as a reminder of the bad, they're erected in honour of heroes. Those people aren't heroes.

XX - Its history non the less
Do you want to go back to the time of hiter burning books because I don't

XX - History is there and cannot be changed, we should learn from it and move forward, no more destruction, the worlds had enough

XX - What is going on, you cannot rewrite history. If they want to do something useful then go and stop slavery where it still exists, or is that too difficult, pull down a statue and ignore modern day slavery, brilliant you muppets !

XX - I would hope the council will put this out to consultation with the taxpayer and take onboard residents feelings on the subject, rather than jumping on an hysterical bandwaggon.

XX - I agree, take it down.

While we are at it, let's have a thorough investigation into who built the historical roads, buildings and specifically Staines Bridge. Without doubt, slaves had to build these and they should be destroyed and rebuilt.

It must be hard to see a statue overlooking you that has so much power, it reignites all those bad memories of slavery, can you imagine taking every step down the street and looking at the 4 walls of that building, must be suffocating.

Until an investigation into Staines bridge is thoroughly undertaken, can you not provide a boat service to get across the Thames?

XX - It's history, what are people going to learn if monuments are removed, people need to learn all history good or bad

XX - Image may contain: one or more people, people standing and outdoor, text that says 'How long before the statue of Rocky Balboa gets pulled down He beat up 3 black men AND a communist.'

XX - XX

Or this dog for not liking cats

Image may contain: outdoor, text that says 'XX Yesterday at 10:57 We We need to pulldown the statue of this this cat cat hating bastard. 90'

XX - XX he was engaged in some imperialist actions in both Afghanistan and Vietnam so now you mention it.....

XX - The Lendy Lion. It was constructed after the Boer War, I think, in memory of the 3 sons of the Lendy family who were killed in it. Originally it was on the Riverbank opposite the Church. Then got damaged in WW2, then went to the grounds of Benwell House. Then was moved to his present site in the walled garden. I do not think he should be put in store. UK GB behaviour in the Boer War was to say the least questionable, the first Concentration Camps for a start, but he doesn't commemorate that so much as memorialised the grief of a family decimated by war.

XX - This is madness. They will be flattening Bristol next because it was built by a slave trader.

XX - That is a beautiful statue with an incredible story - you should be ashamed for doing this!

XX - Oh for goodness sake get a grip, we can't start changing our history and taking down statues would be a part of that. Our history is what it is and we have, hopefully, learnt lessons from it. I for one will not be bullied by these idiots that are behaving so stupidly

XX - Well perhaps anyone who doesn't like our statues here should go and live somewhere else. This is going too far now I mean some of these statues have been there for a long time, what gives these people the right to say we should be accountable now? I mean Queen Victoria's statue has been defaced and she has been dead since 1901 so why now why didn't people object before. It's just that now many people are too scared to say anything for fear of being targeted as a racist.

XX - Glad to see what's important Spelthorne what about the 6 councillors breaking from their party why no statement on that ?

XX - Why? Get a grip and some common sense for God's sake. Are you trying to whitewash our history? Our history happened and made this country what it is today whether people like it or not.

XX - "Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by

minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right." ~ George Orwell, 1984

XX - A statue is a statue
Start taking them down you'll be destroying history
Get a bloody grip

XX - All this is so true let it be known the historical facts this a a way of learning so that we all know how lessons can be learned

XX - I agree our history is our history leave them

XX - will we end up doing this for all things certain people dont like? we wont have much history left!

XX - This is getting ridiculous now.

XX - Wtf are you on. It's a lion

XX - XX makes you feel sick. WTF is happening?

XX - FFS get a bloody grip. History is what it is History..

XX - I really don't think we need to get so offended and angry about this. Throwing around terms like 'snowflake' and 'hysterical minority groups' is inflammatory and unhelpful. As far as I can see there are no real plans to remove the Lendy lion from Sunbury. It might be an idea to add a plaque giving a little detail about the context and history of the Lendy family and I can't see how this would harm anyone.

XX - It's fantastic. leave it please.

XX - Basically leave all the statues where they are because they ARE history. It may be history that we are proud of or history we are ashamed of but surely this is how we remember our mistakes - that is why the likes of Belsen and the Berlin Wall remain - as a warning ! Please stop rewriting the bad bits out of history or we will forget our mistakes and repeat them.

XX - I hope this is a joke!! Where can I send a complaint to.

XX - XX I inbox them no,reply

XX - It's bloody rediculous

XX - That lion was a known slave trader 😊

XX - What the f***! 😊 whatever next.

XX - This seems a very knee jerk reaction to be honest. I am worried that everything going on at the moment is creating much more animosity than was there in the first place 😊

XX - My children being mixed raced with parents from both UK and Africa its only right they know the history of both countries unbelievable totally disappointed..... if we get rid of all our history because it offends it will cause a riot

XX - XX Well said from someone who sees both sides of the coin 🖐🖐🖐🖐

XX - The world has literally gone mad. Virtue signalling that's rapidly heading to shades of 1933

Image may contain: one or more people and outdoor

XX - XX If they going to remove statues and monuments because of the slave trade etc etc . What's next the great Wall of China the pyramids the list is endless

XX - XX maybe boycotting Rana pasta due to the Roman oppression of the Druids!

XX - XX to be fair the Germans removed the nazi statues and replaced them with statues of their victims.

XX - XX to be fair, because they lost the war.

XX – XX are you oppressed? How about the Roman slaughter of the Iceni in AD61, shall we tear down Hadrian's Wall and rip up the Fosse Way?

XX – XX how far back do you wish to go then, serious question? Do you wish to see the effigy of Mary I, 'Bloody Mary', removed for her persecution of Protestants? Will you refuse to drive a Mercedes, BMW or VW or wear anything by Hugo Boss due to their wartime activities?

XX - XX so what you're suggesting is it's ok to drive these cars as the brands have apologised, so an acknowledgement regarding an inanimate statue that the person it commemorates had transgressed the social norms we live by in 2020 would be equally acceptable?

XX - XX True, but then history can't be removed or rewritten by just taking something away from plain sight as it's well-documented. Not for one minute saying that I wouldn't drive one because of events many years ago that as you say are apologised for. I would wonder how many people though, in all seriousness, knew anything of the story of this particular statue or were offended by it before all this started.

XX- XX or 1984

XX - Grow a pair what's the world coming to

XX - Put it in my garden I'll have it !

XX - So are the schools going to stop learning history now????

XX - XX Stick a statue up of Ali G in its place

XX - XX yep totally agree

XX - Our history our monument leave it alone

XX - Does that mean we will remove the lions in Trafalgar Square as lions don't belong in our country!!!

XX - It's a lion?!?!?!?

XX - XX some snowflake somewhere will find offence in it!

XX - What has the Lion done to upset anyone....apart from a few Zebra..

XX - I like it.

XX - Oh have a word with yourself ☹

XX - What an absolute joke.

XX - Unbelievable. Giving in to the bullies.

XX - What a joke

XX - Madness ☹☹

XX - What a load of crap xx

XX - XX ffs

XX - Absolutely ridiculous. !!

XX - WTF get real. This is history!

Comments in favour of removal

XX - Good, thanks for that. We should remind and educate ourselves of our involvement in the slave trade - but there should be no celebration of it with statues and street names in 2020.

XX - XX 🖐 exactly right

Twitter comments

XX (@XX) - How do you mean respresent? They are part of the history regardless of how or why they are there? If it's an unpleasant back story to it then it should serve its purpose that it's a part of history never to be repeated, not swept under the carpet like it didn't happen. Man facepalming

XX (@XX) - Sign the petition and save Lendy!
Sign the Petition
Save The Lendy Memorial Lion #SaveLendy
change.org

XX (@XX) - Absolute rubbish, overreaction, bigger issues to deal with, you cant be everything to everybody

XX (@XX) - The statue may be inappropriate, so too is closing a precious & treasured public amenity w/ no clarity for how long, at a time when it is needed by the community. Make a decision fast, communicate it, reopen.

XX (@XX) - ♂□

XX (@XX) - Absolutely insane

XX (@XX) - This is getting absolutely ridiculous! This historic monument simply reflects part of this country's history. Much of it is not pretty, which is partly why we need to be reminded of it. But let's not destroy our heritage in the process.

XX (@XX) - While we're in 'correctness' mode I assume the Museum will be closed to remove any mentions of Romans (heavily into slavery). Since also the name Staines came from Latin I presume you will be renaming the town....just asking.

XX (@XX) - Might be nice if people reached out to find out why some of these things are offensive rather than getting defensive.

XX (@XX) - More statues of lions please.

Follow up tweet: Just change the plaque. Say 'This statue celebrates lions, which are excellent.'

XX (@XX) "This statue celebrates carpet roll theft"

XX (@XX) - Wtf?

XX (@XX) - Democracy has gone out the window in this country, mob rule seems to have more power. What a stupid message to send out Pouting facePouting faceFace with symbols over mouthFace with symbols over mouth

Instagram comments

XX - XX

XX - I totally respect that decision. Thank you for including us in the discussions.

XX - Also, I am glad you are protecting the gardens - they are a cherished part of this community

XX - Our history, good or bad, is represented in ALL memorials.

PROPOSAL FOR A RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. OVERVIEW

We seek a formal partnership with Spelthorne Borough Council for the purpose of making an application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to conduct research into historical monuments and the legacies of empire.

Spelthorne Borough Council is currently conducting a review of historical monuments within the borough, specifically of the 'Lendy Lion' memorial, and this project can support this process by providing independent and rigorous historical research and analysis for the purposes of decision making by the Council.

2. AIMS OF THE RESEARCH

The aims of the research are to investigate the contemporary implications of monuments and other acts of commemoration associated with slavery and colonialism within the UK today.

To note:

- i. The research project and the reports will not make any political recommendations for what should be done with the historical monuments and acts of commemoration under review.

3. OUTPUTS

The research project will result in academic publications, research reports, and teaching materials. Proposed outputs of interest to Spelthorne Borough Council will be:

1. **Full and detailed report on 'The Lendy Lion' historical monument** (to be made available to Spelthorne Borough Council as soon as possible)

The report will include the following information:

- i. Historical background on the historical monument;

- ii. What or who it commemorated or memorialized at the time it was erected;
- iii. Who erected it and why;
- iv. Artistic/aesthetic value of the historical monument;
- v. Areas of certainty and ambiguity in the historical record regarding the historical monument;
- vi. Areas of potential controversy

2. Public information booklet

The booklet will contain the same basic information as the report above but will be presented in an easily accessible format aimed at a general public readership. This booklet can be used as an educational resource.

4. SUPPORT

The project will be funded by the AHRC. No financial support is requested from Spelthorne Borough Council. **We do ask for a letter of support from the Council which will be included in the funding application. The letter of support is to include the following information:**

- Confirmation of commitment to the proposed research project
- An explanation of the value, relevance and possible benefits of the research project