

PROPOSED COMET ARCHWAY - HELENSBURGH PIER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the request from the Helensburgh Heritage Trust to erect a two dimensional silhouette of Henry Bell's ship the 'Comet' on a grassed amenity area forming part of Helensburgh Pier. The proposed location is outlined on the attached plan.
- 1.2 To further update the Committee on the findings of the Council's consultant engineers with regard to the proposed silhouette.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the content of the report.
- 2.2 That the Committee instructs the Executive Director of Customer Services to enter into an agreement with the Helensburgh Heritage Trust for the erection of the silhouette and the subsequent adoption of the structure by Development & Infrastructure Services. Such agreement to be conditional upon any outstanding engineering issues being appropriately addressed to the satisfaction of the Council and its engineering consultants and on the Trust receiving the requisite funding.
- 2.3 That to assist the Helensburgh Heritage Trust's application for funding that the Committee consents to the Council co-signing the funding application subject to such appropriate conditions as the Executive Director of Customer Services considers reasonably necessary.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Helensburgh Heritage Trust made a request to the Council for permission to erect a two dimensional silhouette of Henry Bell's ship the 'Comet' on a grassed amenity area forming part of Helensburgh Pier. The proposed location is outlined on the attached plan.

- 3.2 The Comet commenced its passenger service in 1812 and the Helensburgh Heritage Trust wishes to celebrate the bicentenary of the service by commissioning and erecting the silhouette. The silhouette would be accompanied by an information board.
- 3.3 A sketch of the silhouette is attached along with a sketch depicting its proposed location on Helensburgh Pier in relation to the pier access and the Tourist Information Centre. The information provided by the Helensburgh Heritage Trust is that the silhouette would be approx 15 feet in length and would be set 10½ feet (3.2m) off the ground with the top of the mast being 20 feet (6.1m) off the ground.
- 3.4 The silhouette is to be made from metal and to have a designed life of 50 years (the Council's consultant engineers are indicating only 30 years). The Helensburgh Heritage Trust is also advising the structure will have no moving parts and will require minimal initial maintenance. The silhouette will be mounted on two poles which in turn will be bolted to a concrete plinth.
- 3.5 The Heritage Trust are keen for the silhouette to be on the pier as a celebration of the bicentenary but recognise that the silhouette may require to be relocated to accommodate future developments on the pier and that ultimately the silhouette may have to be repositioned off the pier.
- 3.6 The Helensburgh Heritage Trust intends to submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to fund the silhouette project. The Trust is keen to see the silhouette in place by August 2012. The funding application requires to be countersigned by the Council as landowner as demonstration of support for the project. The Trust wishes to submit the funding application now in order to have the silhouette in place by August.

The Trust has already applied for and received planning permission for the erection of the silhouette at the location indicated on the attached plan.

- 3.7 The proposed location currently contains a car park sign and a dog waste bin. The Helensburgh Heritage Trust have been advised that should any permission to erect the silhouette be granted the Trust will require to reposition the car park sign and the dog waste bin to a location determined by the Council and at the sole expense of the Trust.
- 3.8 Prior to any permission to locate the silhouette on the pier the Helensburgh Heritage Trust were advised they required to submit an engineer's certificate confirming the silhouette, mounting poles and plinth are all of sufficient specification to withstand the exposed location. It is obviously of paramount importance that

the silhouette does not become a danger in adverse weather conditions. The engineering certificate was submitted along with design drawings and calculations which the Council had also requested.

3.9 The design drawings and calculations were requested as the Executive Director of Development & Infrastructure Services had requested the design was reviewed by the Council's engineering consultants on the Helensburgh CHORD project, AECOM. The Trust was advised the Council would be forwarding the design and calculations to the Council's engineering consultants for review.

3.10 The Council's engineering consultants AECOM have now examined the design specification and made the following comments;

- Minor numerical errors carried through the design but nothing ultimately of significance.
- Confirmation that overtopping of waves will not impact on the location of the structure.
- No check carried out on the overturning or sliding of the foundations.
- Specification of stainless steel rigging and plywood flags to be added including method of preservation of the plywood.
- Drawing indicating connection method between rigging and plywood flags required.
- Potential vandalism would appear most likely to the bowsprit and flagstaff. Engineer should carry out check against vandalism.
- Deflection of frame should be checked by the engineer.
- No information on how the structure is to be cleaned and maintained (note it is the intent to gift the structure to the Council).

3.11 The aforementioned engineering points have been noted to the Helensburgh Heritage Trust for action.

3.12 As mentioned above no information on how the structure is to be cleaned and maintained has been provided. As with the engineering points this has been noted to the Helensburgh Heritage Trust for confirmation. Should the structure be able to be cleaned from ground level by extendable brush or pressure washer then cleaning will be significantly easier and cheaper. Removal of graffiti may require a small cherry picker type vehicle or scaffolding.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Subject to the engineering points raised by the Council's engineering consultants, AECOM, being satisfactorily addressed by the Helensburgh Heritage Trust there would be no engineering reason not to consent to the silhouette being erected on the grassed amenity area.
- 4.2 However given it is the intent of the Helensburgh Heritage Trust to gift the silhouette to the Council there still remains the issue of future maintenance costs. At this moment in time such costs are not clear and the Helensburgh Heritage Trust has been asked to comment on how the silhouette would be cleaned. Graffiti and any impact damage are unquantifiable events which would fall to the Council to action.
- 4.3 Given the Helensburgh Heritage Trust requires the Council's co-signature on their funding application it would seem appropriate for the Council to sign the funding application subject to such conditions as the Executive Director of Customer Services considers reasonably necessary.

5. IMPLICATIONS

POLICY:	None
FINANCIAL:	Future maintenance and possible relocation costs.
PERSONNEL:	None
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	None
LEGAL:	None

Executive Director of Customer Services
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For further information contact: Hugh Blake, Senior Estates Surveyor,
Tel: 01436-658963