

ROTHESAY TOWN BELL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to update Members in regards the long held intention of local elected Members in Bute to provide a fitting location to position the Rothesay Town Bell which was previously located on the Old Court House building. Discussions have been held with Bute Blacksmiths as to the extent of work required to take this ambition forward, and details are provided.

Members are asked to note the detail contained in the report and to agree progression of this project as per the submitted detail.

ROTHESAY TOWN BELL.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the detail provided in regards the long term intention to find a suitable site within Rothesay to position the Rothesay town bell and agree progression of the project at the identified location.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Members may recall that the Rothesay Town Bell was for many years positioned on the top of the Old Courthouse building in Rothesay town centre. The Council vacated the building some years back and it was sold to Fyne Homes for housing purposes. At the time of selling and vacation of the building the town bell was carefully removed, and the intention of the liked Members was that it would be preserved and repositioned centrally in Rothesay for the enjoyment of all of the people of Rothesay and the island of Bute. The bell has been safely stored since its removal from the Court House at Bute Backsmiths.
- 3.2 It has recently been suggested that the bell could be located on the area of ground which sits in central Rothesay at the junction of High Street and Montague Street (see attached map). Given that this area of ground belongs to the Council, it has been confirmed that the proposed installation of the Rothesay Town Bell at the site would be permitted development under Class 33 part 9 (c) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, which allows carrying out, within their own district by a local authority of development under any enactment the estimated cost of which does not exceed £250,000.
- 3.3 A sketch of the proposed positioning of the bell is attached, detailing the concrete foundation upon which it would sit, and the distance it would sit from the ground(1200mm). The bronze bell will be polished and then lacquered to maintain it's polished effect, and the steel work will be galvanised and powder coated in Rothesay Blue before erection.
- 3.4 Confirmation has been received that the groundworks required to be put in place to enable the bell to be located at the suggested site will be completed by the Roads and Amenity Services section of the Council. In regards the costs associated with the polishing etc of the bell, and putting it into position, it is the intention that the Provosts Fund will be asked to meet these costs.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Given the long term wish of the elected Members in Bute to provide a suitable central site for the positioning of the historic Rothesay Town Bell Members are asked to note the detail in this report relating to the clarity surrounding permitted development rights, and the provision for covering costs associated with locating it at the site at High Street/ Montague Street and to agree that the work should therefore be taken forward as a matter of urgency, thereby restoring the bell to a central location and providing civic pleasure to the community in Rothesay and the island of Bute .

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	None.
Financial:	Capital costs will be covered by the Provosts Fund with ground works being undertaken by Amenity Services.
Legal:	None
HR:	None
Equalities:	None
Risk:	None
Customer Service:	None.

Executive Director of Customer Services
27th October 2015

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