

**12 AUGUST 2014**

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**HELENSBURGH CHORD – ARTWORK PROGRESS REPORT**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report outlines progress to date in delivery of the Artwork elements of Helensburgh CHORD town centre improvement works funded through the main CHORD budget allocation and the S75 Artworks fund of £100,000, the latter approved by Members on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

There will be approximately 15 artworks displayed on the plinths in Colquhoun Square, of which the five funded through the main CHORD budget are currently being fabricated and are due to be installed in September/October this year. The remaining 10 funded by the S75 monies, will be procured by means of community-led and open submission process. The community-led process is well underway with one piece already approved by the Selection Panel, with another three, possibly four going forward to next meeting of the Panel in August. Details of the Open Submission Competition will be presented to August Panel for approval.

The Website and Design Guide are well underway and again will be presented to the August Panel for approval.

The bronze plaques that relate to the historic ‘1845 text’ and town maps etchings are currently being fabricated and are due to be installed next month.

The stepping stones along the grassed area of the esplanade depicting the most popular children names in Helensburgh over the years have been produced and are currently being installed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Helensburgh and Lomond Members note the progress report.

That the Area Committee instructs the Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager to bring a further progress report to the Helensburgh and Lomond October Area Committee.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of Artwork elements of the Helensburgh CHORD Public Realm improvement works funded through the main CHORD budget allocation and the S75 Artworks fund of £100,000, the latter approved by Members on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Helensburgh and Lomond Members note the progress report.

3.2 That the Area Committee instruct the Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager to bring a further progress report to the Helensburgh and Lomond October Area Committee.

## 4. DETAIL

4.1 It was agreed at April Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee in June 2014 that the £100,000 section 75 Artworks monies would fund the following artworks:-

- Additional 4 - 5 Plinth Artworks, based upon the design and materials guide that has been evolved in the fabrication of the first 5 Plinth Artworks funded by the CHORD artworks programme;
- Produce a record of the “ History of Helensburgh” in 100 Objects as a Website;
- Produce a Design Guide as a downloadable PDF;
- Create 5 bronze plaques that relate to the historic ‘1845 text’
- Provide 14 additional stepping stones along the grassed area of the esplanade depicting the most popular children names in Helensburgh over the years
- Produce a 3m x 0.5m sandstone etching showing the evolution of the town map from 1800 to present day.

It was also agreed that Councillor Ellen Morton, Councillor Gary Mulvaney and Councillor Richard Trail would sit on the Artwork selection panel.

4.2 Progress against each of the above elements is outlined below

### 4.2.1 Plinths

All of the five original plinths funded by the main CHORD funds are currently being produced and are due to be installed in September/October this year. The five plinths are the *Lily Springs bottle* from the Lily Springs Spring House; four *Wee shoes* miniature crafted shoes by the town’s first shoemaker; *Stooky Bill* puppet used by John Logie Baird for the first ever transmitted televised image in 1926; *Comet – Bell’s Bell* replica of the original bell salvaged from the wreck of the Comet in 1820 and the *Butter Pats*.

The position with the *additional plinths* funded from the S75 monies are as follows:-

*Community-Led School Plinth* - Following on from the ‘My Creative Community Day’ at Hermitage Academy in February 2014, all the clay artworks produced by the S1 pupils in relation to John Muir, were fired at the

school to create ceramics; Ceramics were displayed for the Selection Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014; 5 ceramics were selected by the panel, for a Community Led: Schools John Muir plinth. *The pieces are currently in production as bronze artworks.*

*Community-Led Grey Matters Plinth* - The WAVEparticle team have conducted a series of workshops in Helensburgh with the Grey Matter group to generate nominations for a Plinth; Nominations re “objects with stories” gathered, recorded and documented with photographs of the nominated objects and ‘portraits’ of owners / nominees – with the intent of this information being archived on-line. A Template of the information about the nominated object and its connection to the town, along with a photograph of each nominated object and the ‘portrait’ of it’s owner/nominee have been formatted in relation to the preferred website template chosen by the Selection Panel on the 16 June 2014.

WAVEparticle will develop 3 worked up proposals drawn from the nominations from Grey matters ‘object and story’ so that one can be chosen for permanent display as a Grey Matters’ Plinth by the Selection Panel at its next meeting on the 18 August 2014.

*Community-Led nominated by Helensburgh Heritage* – Potential nominations include an original ceramic Comrie Bottle, held by the Library that reflects the history of the town. Discussions ongoing with the Council’s Culture and Libraries Manager.

*Community –Lead Plinth representing Community based activity* (Good Deeds, Local Hero’s etc.)– For example an object, an image and / or a text that would represent the LIONS society on a plinth in Colquhoun Square. The Lions logo sandblasted onto a plinth, *A message in a Bottle* cast in bronze and a short text connecting to the Lions specific relationship or activities in Helensburgh To reference *Lions Helensburgh are celebrating 50 years in the town this year and are the oldest surviving Lions Club in Scotland.* Three proposals will be worked up under this category for one to be selected on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 by the Selection Panel.

*Open Submission Plinths* - Research into open submission processes has been conducted and the draft Competition announcement along with process for advertising and shortlisting applicants including budget for each commission was discussed by the Selection Panel on the 16 June. Final details of the aforementioned will be presented to the Selection panel on the 18<sup>th</sup> August for sign off. The Competition will be launched in September this year.

**4.2.2 Website** - WAVEparticle prepared a brief identifying requirements to produce a template for a website for ‘Helensburgh in a 100 objects’ – this included researching website precedents including The British Museum, the V&A, A History of the World in 100 objects: Brief was sent to a number of shortlisted website designers. Options were displayed to the Selection Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> June in regards to the website aesthetic – the Selection Panel signed-off their preferred website template. Designer appointed to build a website template to demonstrate to Selection Panel on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Template to be filled with live material from the Grey Matters workshops. Designer to liaise with Council about compatible templates and Council site thresholds and protocols

4.2.3. **Design Guide** – Currently being researched and produced, indicative 1<sup>st</sup> draft will be presented to Selection Panel on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

4.2.4 **Bronze Plaque text from the 1845 Report** – text selected and edited for the additional 5 bronze plaques and approved by the Selection Panel on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Plaques in production, due to be installed w/c 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

4.2.5 **Stepping Stones** - installed onsite.

4.2.6 **Town Map** - Various dates re maps of Helensburgh over the years, shortlisted. Three Town Maps comprised of dates 1820 / 1900 / 2014 to be produced. Map in production due to be installed next month.

Further details on each of the above elements along with images are available by contacting the Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager.

In addition to the above artworks, the artists are looking to create a flotilla arrangement with the decorative heads from the Comet Lighting columns to attract people from the Esplanade up into the Square, further details will be provided in the October update report.

4.3 Budget Breakdown to date just under £25,000 of the £100,000 S75 funds has been committed/spent.

	Budget	Committed/ spent
Plinth Artwork - Open Submission	£42,000	£0
Plinth Artwork - Community Led	£22,000	£2,700
Website/ Design Guidance	£2,500	£1,250
Town Map	£4,000	£4,230
Bronze Plaques	£10,500	£8,280
Stepping Stones	£3,000	£2,800
<i>Total</i>	<i>£84,000</i>	
Management fee 12.5%	£10,500	£5,550
<i>Total</i>	<i>£94,500</i>	<i>£24,810</i>
Contingency 5.8%	£5,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£100,000</b>	<b>£24,810</b>

4.4 Good progress is being made with the Community –Led Plinths, the Open Submission Plinths are behind schedule but still hoping to have artworks installed before the end of the year. The Stepping stones are installed and the Town maps and Bronze plaques will be installed next month. The website and design guide are on track to be completed by November 2014.

4.5 There are essentially three risks associated with the successful delivery of the S75 artwork proposals; *costs exceeding budget* – project currently under budget as prices for Stepping stones and Bronze plaques returned under estimate; *lower level of response to artworks for Plinth* - competition not launched until w/c 18<sup>th</sup> August however given the response to the community-

led plinths the risk is deemed low and *ensuring artworks are available to be installed without prejudicing the main works programme* – to date this has not been an issue.

## 5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Overall good progress is being made in delivering the various artwork elements, costs remain within budget and risks associated with the project are low to moderate. All the artworks are integrated into the physical CHORD area and all are on track to be completed before CHORD work is completed.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

**POLICY:** The delivery of this project fits with the Council's Corporate Plan, Single Outcome Agreement and approved Development Plan key actions and policy for safeguarding our built heritage and town centre regeneration. The economic outcomes from this project will contribute to the Council's Economic Development Action Plan at a strategic and area based level. Council's Planning Officers have been consulted on the CHORD Artwork proposals and written consent has been given.

**FINANCIAL:** The Council is in receipt of the £100,000 funds from the Section 75 Agreement with Drum development. The project management costs are included in the budget breakdown in section 4.3.

**LEGAL** None

**HR:** None, the artwork proposals will be project managed by *WAVEparticle*, who will report to Helensburgh CHORD Project Manager and provide regular progress updates to the Helensburgh and Lomond Members.

**EQUALITIES:** None

**RISKS:** See section 4.5 above.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE:** None

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure  
16 July 2014

For further information contact:  
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