

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 23 MARCH 2005

BURNS MONUMENT, KAY PARK, KILMARNOCK – PROGRESS REPORT

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress made towards the redevelopment of the Burns Monument in Kay Park, Kilmarnock.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the fire at the Burns Monument on 19th November 2004 and the completion of works to make the remaining building safe, efforts are now being directed towards identifying sustainable development options for the monument and negotiating an appropriate insurance settlement.
- 2.2 The Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services has established a multi-disciplinary project team which includes representatives from appropriate Council departments and also representatives from Historic Scotland and Loss Adjusters, GAB Robbins, employed by Zurich Municipal, the Council's insurers.
- 2.3 The project team has met on several occasions and has considered financial, operational, technical, heritage and planning issues relating to the potential redevelopment of the monument. Further to these considerations a series of options has been identified for further investigation and subsequent public consultation.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Having investigated a range of potential options ranging from retention of the Burns Statue only and relocating it to a site adjacent to the Dick Institute to the full restoration of the monument into its former design, the team considers that there are two viable options worthy of further detailed investigation.
- 3.2 The first option is to undertake the structural work required to strengthen the remaining section of the monument and create a new monument of reduced height which protects the Burns Statue and creates a focal point within the park. Improved lighting and an appropriate security fence would also be included in this option to improve both the security and the visual appearance of the restyled monument. This option would be a lower cost

option and would not require additional revenue funding to support its day to day operation. No external funding would be either required or available for this option. Full costings for this work are still being developed, however, these costs will be significantly lower than the full restoration costs.

- 3.3 The second option is to undertake the structural and remedial work described in option one but also include additional facilities around the memorial to support new services and functions, provide a base for staff and improve security at the site. The monument would be restored to a lower height and the statue protected. The additional buildings could be constructed either around a courtyard or immediately adjacent to the restored monument. Both styles are currently being investigated. The provision of additional usable internal space would create the opportunity for a range of uses including relocation of some Council services i.e. Registration, Civil Marriages and Local History bringing a range of practical uses and promoting sustainability and security for the new facility. Creating these new facilities would bring new visitors to the Kay Park and opening up the area around the monument would assist in reducing vandalism and improving public safety in the park. Improved vehicle access would be required along with additional car parking space. External funding may be achievable for this type of project and this factor may be of benefit when negotiating with Zurich regarding the final insurance settlement. Services transferring to the new building could include the Registration and Marriage facility in John Finnie Street in Kilmarnock and the Local History facility currently based in the Baird Institute, Cumnock.
- 3.4 Both options require considerable additional work to establish accurate costings, identify funding and ensure sustainability and this work is currently ongoing.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Work is ongoing to develop a range of options for the restoration of the Burns Monument site and these will be presented to Committee in due course prior to public consultation

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:-

- (i) Approve the development for the two options for the Burns Monument outlined in this report;
- (ii) Remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to report back to the Committee with further details regarding both options; and
- (iii) Otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JS

28th February 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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