

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29TH MAY 2002

BURNS HOUSE MUSEUM – MAUCHLINE

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the Council to purchase the Burns House Museum, Mauchline and seek formal approval to conclude this transaction.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Community Services Committee has been responsible for the management of the Burns House Museum since May 2001. Temporary management arrangements were introduced to ensure that the facility remained open to the public, while bids were prepared for submission to appropriate funding bodies to support the purchase of the Museum from the Burns House (Mauchline) Tryst Limited.
- 2.2 Members will recall that the Tryst proposed to close the Museum due to financial problems.

3. CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 A sum of £49,100 has been awarded to the Council to fund the purchase of the Museum and some minor remedial works. The project requires £6,000 of the Council's own funding, and this will be met from existing budgets. The total cost of the project is £55,100. The price for the Museum buildings has been negotiated with the Tryst and represents excellent value for money. The Tryst are keen to ensure that the buildings remain open to the public and see a transfer of ownership to the Council as the best way of securing this end.
- 3.2 The formal arrangements for the purchase of the Museum are nearing completion. The Museum will now be open throughout summer 2002.
- 3.3 Additional funding is now being sought to support the development of the Museum, and promote its strong links with Robert Burns to generate visitors to the Mauchline area, and educational use of the premises.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications attached to this report, other than those outlined above.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The award of £49,100 by the Heritage Lottery Fund will allow the Council to purchase the Burns House Museum, Mauchline.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) approve the purchase of the Burns House Museum and Nance Tinnocks House from Burns House (Mauchline) Tryst limited at a total cost of £55,100; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/DCS/KH

2ND May 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Community Services Committee dated 19th September 2001
2. Report to Emergency Powers Committee dated 8th May 2001

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576364 and speak to John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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AGENDA