

# CABINET

## Ryelands Park Bandstand 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012

### Report of Head of Environmental Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT					
To seek Cabinet's decision on a request from Morecambe Town Council with regards to the Ryelands Park bandstand					
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	NA				
This report is public					

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF CLLR SMITH

- (1) That the City Council does not agree with the principle of Morecambe Town Council's proposed relocation of Ryelands Bandstand to Happy Mount Park
- (2) That before the City Council considers whether it would in principle allow Morecambe Town Council to locate a bandstand in Happy Mount Park a comprehensive consultation exercise, overseen by the City Council, but funded by Morecambe Town Council is undertaken. The results of this to be reported back to Cabinet.
- (3) That based on Cabinet's decision the Head of Environmental Services responds to Morecambe Town Council's letter.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Morecambe Town Council have made a request to Lancaster City Council, via the Chief Executive, as set out in Appendix A.

#### 2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 In terms of the request from Morecambe Town Council the following information should be considered-
- 2.2 There is some debate as to whether bandstand in Ryelands Park was actually originally located in Happy Mount Park as indicated in the letter from Morecambe Town Council. Either way it has been located in Ryelands Park for a very long time.
- 2.3 The bandstand in Ryelands Park is in poor condition. A structural survey was undertaken about 2 years ago, following a similar request. The survey indicated that whilst it was currently in safe condition it would not be advisable to attempt to take apart and then transport the structure.

- 2.4 Work is currently taking place to develop a master plan for Ryelands Park. The bandstand isn't specifically included in this. It is clear though from consultation that has taken place already that despite it's poor condition the local community view it as an iconic feature of the Park. At this stage there is no funding to be able to make improvements to the bandstand.
- 2.5 Extensive consultation has recently taken place with users of Happy Mount Park. The aims of the consultation were to –
- to increase the number of visitors to Happy Mount Park and maximise satisfaction.
  - To improve the profile of Happy Mount Park as a visitor destination

A total of 401 questionnaires were completed face-to-face and online. One question was asked about what people would like to see with regard to the development of the park. Of 150 responses 5 people said they would like to see a bandstand in Happy Mount Park. 3 other people said there should be more bands in the park.

- 2.6 During the summer a number of bands do play in the park and manage to do so without a permanent bandstand.
- 2.7 Were a permanent bandstand to be located in the Park it would need space finding for it. Besides the initial cost of purchasing and constructing the bandstand sufficient ongoing maintenance budgets would need to be allocated to the bandstand.
- 2.8 Whilst 1700 residents and visitors have signed a specific petition on this subject no consultation on the actual need for a bandstand in Happy Mount Park has taken place.

### **3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)**

- 3.1 **Option 1- Agree / Not Agree to the idea relocation of the Ryelands Bandstand to Happy Mount Park.** Based on previous advice this option is not practically feasible and even if it were would require consultation with the users of Ryelands Park. The City Council has no resource currently available to undertake this consultation. Were Cabinet minded to consider this option it should consider requesting that Morecambe Town Council covers the costs of a consultation exercise
- 3.2 **Option 2- Agree / Not agree to the principle of a bandstand in Happy Mount Park.** A permanent bandstand in Happy Mount Park would take up valuable space and would need to be properly maintained. At this stage there is no real evidence to show how a permanent bandstand would add to the visitor experience in Happy Mount Park and complement the existing range of activities, which already includes concerts and bands who manage to perform without a permanent bandstand. Were Cabinet minded to consider this option consultation would need to take place to establish whether a permanent bandstand really was needed. The City Council has no resource currently available to undertake this consultation. Were Cabinet minded to consider this option it should consider requesting that Morecambe Town Council covers the costs of a consultation exercise

#### 4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The report seeks Cabinet's view on Morecambe Town Council's request so a response can be made.

4.2

#### RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Council's corporate plan includes the action of continuing to develop and market Happy Mount Park as a key visitor attraction.

#### CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

NA

#### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None as result of this report

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out within the report

#### OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

##### Human Resources:

NA

##### Information Services:

NA

##### Property:

NA

##### Open Spaces:

As set out within the report

#### SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

#### MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

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