

CABINET

Request to install a flagpole structure with associated rigging on the Stone Jetty Morecambe by Morecambe Town Council

22 January 2013

Report of Head of Regeneration & Planning

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To consider the request of Morecambe Town Council for the erection of a flagpole and associated rigging on the Stone Jetty.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Officer
				X
Date Included in Forthcoming Key Decision Notice			n/a	
This report is public				

RECOMMENDATIONS OF HEAD OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

- (1) That Morecambe Town Council be advised that the City Council regrets that it cannot be supportive of the proposal on this occasion because of the adverse effect that the structure would have upon the provision of parking and access for disabled anglers and the ability to use the maintenance ramps to adequately maintain the sea defences in this location.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.0 Morecambe Town Council have written to the City Council asking for agreement to site a large flagpole structure towards the seaward end of the Stone Jetty, capable of displaying Nelson's Fleet signal. The flagpole would not be a simple single mast structure but a mizzenmast flagpole with outrigging supports. This type of structure is capable of supporting a number of flags.
- 1.2 There are several issues for the City Council. The mast would require planning permission and have to be considered on aesthetic and functional grounds. The Stone Jetty is also part of the Council's property assets and its wider role to the community would have to be considered. Finally the City Council also has a duty as a riparian owner of this part of the coastal defences to ensure that it is adequately maintained, an increasingly important duty as the nation experiences more incidences of severe weather. This report simply deals with the Council's response as landowner.

2.0 Material considerations

- 2.1 The area upon which the Town Council would like to see the flagpole structure situated was originally designed to allow access for large machinery for maintenance of the rock armour and to accommodate the parking and access needs of anglers with disabilities. The anglers traditional access to the various areas of the Promenade for fishing purposes was lost when the recent generation of sea defences was constructed.
- 2.2 There are also two ramped access points from this circular feature down from the jetty onto the foreshore which facilitate access by plant and machinery to undertake maintenance of the rock armour around the jetty.
- 2.3 The outrigger supports for a mizzenmast flagpole would interfere with the free movement of vehicles, plant and machinery on this part of the Stone Jetty and therefore prevent its use for the purpose for which it was designed.
- 2.4 Understandably the anglers still feel an injustice was done when they lost access to their traditional fishing locations and a further threat to their new location would not be expected to be welcomed. By impeding access to maintain the Stone Jetty the City Council would also be compromising its duties to maintain this part of the sea defences.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 On balance whilst the City Council understands the Town Council's desire to locate Nelsons Fleet signals in this location, it is considered that it would be very difficult to justify the removal of the facilities provided for disabled anglers to do this. Equally it would be unwise to compromise the maintenance regime for the jetty itself.

4.0 Details of Consultation

- 4.1 The Head of Resources has no comments to make on the report.
- 4.2 The Head of Community Engagement acknowledges the issues relating to the use of the jetty by anglers with disabilities.
- 4.3 The Councils coastal engineers advise against the construction of a mizzenmast flagpole structure in the location suggested for the reasons given in the report.
- 4.4 No formal consultation has taken place with anglers groups at this stage.

5.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 5.1 **Option 1** to support the Town Councils request to site a mizzenmast flagpole on the Stone Jetty. This would lead to conflict with the provision of disabled parking spaces and access for maintenance of the Stone Jetty.
- 5.2 **Option 2** not to support the Town Council's request to site a mizzenmast flagpole on the Stone Jetty. This would protect the facilities for disabled parking and access maintenance but will inevitably be a cause of disappointment for those who support the celebration of a national hero and a historical victory in this manner.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The regeneration of Morecambe Town Centre is a part of the economic Growth key priority in the latest version of the corporate Plan 2012-2015. The maintaining of sea defences is a duty for the Council as owner of this part of the coastline, and aligns with the corporate plan priority to keep the district safe.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The provision of facilities for anglers with disabilities was a specific objective of the design of this part of the coastal defences. The removal of this facility without overriding justification would conflict with the Corporate Plan priority which seeks to improve the health and well being of local residents by participation in sports and leisure activities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications attached to the recommendations in this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy S151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications attached to the recommendations in this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from Morecambe Town Council dated 07 November 2012

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