

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee: 9 December 2008

Subject: Dumbarton Heritage Plaques - Project Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee of the proposed installation of blue plaques to commemorate places of interest on the Dumbarton Heritage Trail.

2. Background

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council Forward Planning and Regeneration are leading on a project for the erection of new pedestrian signage within Dumbarton town centre. This arose from the 2005 Dumbarton Signage Strategy. It includes signing the route of the heritage trail with new finger signs. £40,000 has been allocated from Forward Planning and Regeneration budgets to deliver the signage during 2008/09.
- 2.2** As a result of this project the opportunity was identified to update the Dumbarton Heritage Trail leaflet and to install commemorative plaques at the places of interest on the trail, and at some nearby locations.
- 2.3** West Dunbartonshire Council, working in partnership with West Dunbartonshire Heritage, is currently redrafting the 2003 trail leaflet. £500 is available for this purpose. A new trail map has been produced and 17 places of interest identified. The desire is to have the places of interest on the heritage trail marked with a blue circular plaque. They will commemorate the contribution the buildings make to the heritage of Dumbarton and draw people's attention to them.
- 2.4** The places of interest on the trail are listed in Appendix 1. It is intended that some places of interest in close proximity to the trail also be commemorated by blue plaques. These could possibly include the Scottish Maritime Museum/Denny Ship Model Experimental Tank, Dumbarton Common and Levensgrove Park. It is envisaged that 17-20 plaques be provided in total.
- 2.5** The blue circular plaques would simply identify the name of the building / place of interest, its date of completion and its corresponding item number on the heritage trail map. The design details for the plaques are currently being worked up. The most appropriate size is 300mm diameter as this can be accommodated in a prominent position on the buildings concerned.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** No funding is currently available for the Dumbarton Heritage Trail plaques. Lennox Heritage Society have agreed to submit a funding application to Awards for All Scotland for this purpose. Awards for All make small lottery grants (between £500 and £10,000) to local groups to fund specific projects or activities which benefit the community. The application will be for just under £6,500 to cover the costs of manufacture, delivery and installation of the plaques. The application will be submitted in early December 2008. It normally takes 8 weeks for the application to be assessed, however, it can take up to 12 weeks depending on the volume of applications which are received.
- 3.2** In anticipation of the funds being granted, the owners of the buildings have been contacted with a view to them giving consent for the installation of the plaques. Preferred locations on the buildings have been identified (Refer Appendix 1) and owners' comments on these, and their consent to erect them, are awaited.
- 3.3** Twelve of the properties on the trail where it is proposed to install the plaques are listed buildings. Historic Scotland have been advised of the project and asked to confirm whether listed building consent will be required. If it is, the timescale for submitting the application and obtaining a decision is approximately 2-3 months.
- 3.4** Given the need to obtain funding, the consent of property owners, and possibly listed building consent, the best outcome would be to have the plaques installed during March 2009. If the funding application is unsuccessful the timescale for delivery will be uncertain.
- 3.5** At present, Forward Planning and Regeneration have not committed to a roll out of the plaque programme throughout West Dunbartonshire. On completion of the Dumbarton signage, heritage trail and plaque project consideration could be given to updating the other heritage trail leaflets for Clydebank; Duntocher, Hardgate and Faifley; Old Kilpatrick, Bowling and Milton; and the River Leven. This would of course depend on priorities, staff resources, availability of funding and continued partnership working with local heritage groups.
- 3.6** Expanding the plaque project to include properties within West Dunbartonshire which have a connection to a famous person (i.e. they were either born or lived within the authority) is a worthwhile future project. Given the subject matter, this is a project which would be best led by Education and Cultural Services. The Forward Planning and Regeneration section could assist by advising on necessary consents and methods of implementation.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The full cost of the Dumbarton Heritage Trail plaques will not be known until the exact location, fitting, design, materials and wording for the plaques have been agreed. It is envisaged that costs will be in the region of £6,500. The total cost to update the Dumbarton Heritage Trail leaflet, signpost the route and install the commemorative plaques is approximately £47,000.

5.2 If the project was widened to include the updating, signposting and installation of commemorative plaques for the five other heritage trails within West Dunbartonshire considerable further funds would be required. It is estimated that this could cost as much as £50,000 per trail. It would also require the commitment of staff resources and rely on further support from local heritage groups. Before proceeding with a similar project for any of the other heritage trails, a prioritisation exercise, in relation to other funding needs, would obviously require to be undertaken.

5.3 The wider plaque project for famous people cannot yet be costed as the scale of the project is still unknown.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 No conceivable risks have been identified in relation to the Dumbarton Heritage Plaque project. The project will only proceed if full funding is awarded and all necessary consents are in place. If the project proceeds, care will be taken in the placing of the plaques so as to avoid risk to property and persons.

7. Conclusions

7.1 This report informs the Sub-Committee of the current position on the proposal to install plaques at the places of interest on the Dumbarton Heritage Trail. It refers to the linked projects to signpost the heritage trail and update the heritage trail leaflet.

7.2 It is desirable to undertake similar projects for the other heritage trails within West Dunbartonshire at some point in the future so as to further raise awareness and celebrate the heritage of West Dunbartonshire.

7.3 There is also merit in installing plaques to commemorate famous people with West Dunbartonshire connections. This would be seen as a fitting tribute to them and raise awareness of their connection to West Dunbartonshire.

8. Recommendation

8.1 **The Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee is invited to:-**

- a) note the content of this paper and the progress being made with the Dumbarton Heritage Trail plaque project.
- b) note that delivery of the Dumbarton Heritage trail plaque project depends on the Awards for All grant application being successful.
- c) note that the delivery of similar projects requires a prioritisation exercise to be undertaken of other funding needs, the commitment of staff resources, and continued partnership working with local heritage groups.

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Date: 1 December 2008

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Appendix 1: Details of the locations for plaques on the Dumbarton Heritage Trail

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All

Dumbarton Heritage Trail Plaques

Appendix 1

Plaque No	Location	Size and Mounting	Listed Building	Location of Plaque
1	Dumbarton Central Station, Church Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - A	On wall at right side of main entrance on south side of station
2	Municipal Buildings, Glasgow Road	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On wall to right of main entrance on south side of building
3	Dumbarton Public Library, Strathleven Place	300mm diameter, wall mounted	No	On wall on left side of main entrance
4	St Patrick's RC Church, Strathleven Place	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On south end of boundary wall or mounted on bollard
5	Dumbarton Prison, MacLean Place	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On right hand side of gateway or at northern face of stone wall
6	Sheriff Court House, Church Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On wall on either side of main entrance
7	The Old Academy, Church Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - A	On wall on either side of main entrance (should this be put on before the building is refurbished?)
8	Riverside Parish Church, High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - A	On wall to right of pedestrian entrance from High Street or on gate pillar to right of vehicle entrance
9	Former MacMillan Shipyard Offices, 3 High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	No	On wall to left of entrance
10	Former British Linen Bank, 17 - 21 High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On wall to left of entrance
11	St Augustine's Scottish Episcopal Church	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - A	On buttress to right of entrance
12	Former Savings Bank of Glasgow, 12 High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	No	On wall to right of entrance
13	Former Burton's Building, 81 -85 High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	No	On polished granite pilaster to left of pend
14	Glencairn Greit House, 95 High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On wall to left of entrance with existing plaque relocated to right hand side of entrance below other plaques
15	Former Free High Church, 143- 145 High Street	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On buttress between entrances
16	Dumbarton Bridge	300mm diameter, wall mounted	Yes - B	On parapet on south-east corner of bridge

17	Site of Dumbarton Glassworks	300mm diameter, mounted on 1 m high support	No	Post mounted plaque on grass to right of path to Health Centre from Station Road
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