

## **10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 The Ness Working Group Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Wendy Brooks and Bernie Rappensberger

In Attendance: Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

### **1. The Coastal Garden**

To date, four landscape designers have been approached and two site visits have been conducted.

First, this Committee will need to confirm the brief to ensure the designs and works are quoted to the same specification.

After the two site visits, both designers have informed the office they require a payment to create and provide a design, one quoted £7,500 and the other quoted just over £2,000. As a local authority we will need to endeavour to obtain three quotes. An approach to Suffolk Wildlife Trust was suggested to obtain a quote.

At the site visit it was agreed to set the location on the strip of land adjacent to the wall, we need clarification on which side of the ramp it would be set. Those in attendance suggested the garden be set to the north and not in the fenced off area. This Committee will need to agree on the location.

Those in attendance suggested the size of the garden be small to begin with to ensure it establishes in the area.

### **2. The Drying Racks**

Visits were conducted with Excelsior and International Boatbuilding Training College (IBTC).

Estimates have been received from IBTC:

Each rack consists of 11 posts and 10 cross members. I would suggest using more aesthetically pleasing round posts/spars with a diameter of 150mm. The posts would be in softwood and treated with a good quality preservative. Each post to be set into ground with concrete.

I would estimate to supply materials, prepare and install £2800-00 plus VAT per row.

There are 20 existing rows of racks, ten each side of central pathway. The cost to replace every row would therefore be £56000-00 plus VAT.

If we were to install two rows either side of central pathway the cost would be £11200-00 plus VAT.

Please note the above estimates do not include removal of existing racks and associated waste materials.

Three quotes would be required. The working group were in favour of the proposal to refurbish the first two rows on both sides and leave the remaining racks.

Would the group want to consider a Heritage Focus Group meeting to consider the heritage plan for the site.

### **3. The Sea Wall**

Mr Reardon received a letter of support from Sennen Parish Council on the project (their sea wall or equivalent would be marked the DEEP END per his proposal) and he has asked we provide him a letter of expression of interest, which he would use to make his application to the Arts Council for funding.

The decision made by AID on 5 February 2024:

Cllr Pearce proposed to provide the artist an Expression of Interest; seconded by Cllr Youngman; all in favour. It would be made clear to the applicant that the Expression of Interest did not include permission to approach the Arts Council for funding. If the project develops further then officers would advise the applicant that the mural work would be subject to open procurement under the financial regulations.

Once the idea has been further developed then Full Council would be provided with the artist's proposal and the proposal for a public competition to decide on the direction for the sea wall mural.

AID had stipulated before the project reached the stage of applying for Arts Council funding, AID would make a recommendation to Full Council to decide between engaging an artist to work on the sea wall (which would be subject to procurement) or pursue a public competition. Before this decision can be made the remaining issues on ownership of the sea wall need to be resolved.

Telescopes were suggested for this area and officers are investigating prices.

#### **4. Sculptures**

The suggestion of a Herring Lassies statues was first brought to AID by a member of public and the statues of the Beetsters and Ransackers were added to the project.

Members would need to consider if all figures should be one sculpture or separate sculptures. The Herring Lassies could be separate from the Beetsters and Ransackers as their roles were different with different histories.

Consider the following:

- Would a small panel explaining the history be warranted?
- The materials – consider it is on the coastline, bronze/copper will verdigris over time.
- Artists – local to Lowestoft or local to Suffolk county?
- Composition – realistic or abstract? Herring Lassies statues are sited elsewhere along the eastern coast and tend to be realistic. It was suggested to consider outline sculptures rather than a solid sculpture.
- Practicalities – location (issues of contamination on the land), size, foundations.
- Size - Would it be life sized or small on a plinth – that plinth could have the panel explaining the history. The working group were minded to opt for life-sized.

There may be possible plans from East Suffolk Council to put statues in at the end of some scores near the start of the old beach village, this may be worth exploring as we would not want to duplicate any statues.

Would the group want to consider a Heritage Focus Group meeting to consider the heritage plan with regards to the sculptures.