



New Romney Town Council Commemorative Bandstand Project



It has been noted that Mr Wimble is encouraging members of The Real Marsh Watch to ask the Town Council the same questions that he, himself, has asked regarding the Town Bandstand Project. This is perfectly acceptable and all public information. In order to save not only your time but also the time of Town Council Officers and, therefore, the associated man-hours and/or stationery costs in replying to lots of individuals, please see below the detailed responses supplied to all questions asked:

Dear Mr Wimble,

In response to your enquiry regarding New Romney Town Council's Bandstand project, please see below:

- 1) How many people voted in favour of the bandstand?
Of the 1390 responses to the bandstand consultation overall, a total of 1179 correctly completed responses (ie. with surname, age group and postcode duly completed) were received – with **899 responses (76%) being in favour of a Commemorative Town Bandstand** and only 280 (24%) being against the bandstand. **If incorrectly completed responses were included** (ie. with a surname or age group or postcode missing from the response), **figures would adjust to 1039 responses being in favour (75%)** and 347 being against (25%).
Four responses out of the total 1390 received were discounted due to including rude or abusive content.
Please note: Original consultation responses are available at the Town Hall.
- 2) How much has already been spent on the planning of this bandstand?
NO monies have been expended to date in the planning of the bandstand, since the project is still in the very early stages of investigation into cost, design, potential problems etc. and priority in terms of Officer time for capital projects is currently being given over to progression of the project to provide a much needed new community hall and sports pavilion.
- 3) Who is responsible for the planning?
As detailed above, this project is still in the very early investigatory stages and is not, therefore, near to the point of detailed planning.
- 4) What is the final estimate for the bandstand?
As this project is in the extremely early stages, there is not currently any final estimate of cost. However, dependant on whether a bespoke product is considered or whether a standard, basic design of bandstand is opted for – with or without added security features, such as shutters / lighting etc, the cost is likely to range anywhere between £50,000.00 and £100,000.00. However, it should be noted that it has never been the intention that the Town Council will fully fund such a project – but that, rather, the majority of the cost would have to be raised through third-party grant funding.
- 5) When is it scheduled to be started and finished?
As detailed costing, designing, planning etc has not as yet been undertaken, no schedule has as yet been put to the Council for consideration, particularly in light of the fact that the community hall and sports pavilion project is currently a priority.
- 6) What is the cost of supplying chairs and storage for said bandstand?
When the stage is reached whereby detailed costings are undertaken for the project as a whole, in order to begin the process of submitting grant funding bids, the cost of any required chairs / storage will be factored into that costing. However, it should be noted that the Town Council has a large number of chairs available at the Assembly Rooms which can be used (perhaps temporarily until such time as funds become available for a

separate purchase) for musicians / other performers / audience members in the same way that they were used for last year's outdoor concert – should available funding not cover the cost of such items in the first instance. Alternatively, initial costs for an agreed design may need to be paired down to accommodate the purchase of chairs if adequate funding would not otherwise be available.

- 7) As this involved public expenditure, could you please let me know the names of the Councillors who voted for or against it in the recorded vote along with who proposed and seconded this?

Please first note that NO expenditure was incurred in resolving to progress the bandstand project. (Monies in the amount of £20,000.00 were re-allocated from other projects to form a Town Council contribution towards the bandstand project in light of successful funding bids which resulted in a surplus of project funds – but NO monies have, as yet, been expended.) Furthermore, the Town Council only initially resolved, in principle, to its progression – subject to first going out to public consultation. Following that public consultation, the outcome of which is summarised above, the Town Council then formally resolved to progress the project in light of the public support evidenced via the consultation.

Initially, the Council Chairman reported to the Council **on 18th May 2016** that she had been considering putting to the Council that it approve a possible legacy project to commemorate the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II and the longevity of Her reign. She went on to report that it should be noted that there had been mention of a bandstand within a previously drafted Town Plan and that, furthermore, a bandstand was included in the 'wish-list' of Town projects [compiled by the Council] for which it was requested that the District Council consider applying future s106 contributions. She commented at that time that a bandstand would not only make an ideal legacy project but that it was something that it had clearly been intended the Council should consider as and when it may become appropriate to do so and she, therefore, requested that the Town Council consider approving such a project, subject to appropriate public consultation.

At that time, the 'in principle' approval was given to siting of a bandstand on St. Martin's Field in commemoration of the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II and the longevity of Her reign, subject to appropriate public consultation.

The afore-mentioned motion was **proposed by Councillor Tillson and Seconded by Councillor Mrs Metcalfe** and the vote was **unanimous**.

Please note: Whilst you have advised members of the public via social media that due to the fact that spending in excess of £5,000.00 was incurred (noting that no expenditure has been incurred to date) it was necessary to record the vote – this is factually incorrect. There is no requirement to record the specifics of any vote, save whereby, as provided in the Town Council's Standing Orders, a Councillor so demands at the time of voting and before moving onto the next agenda item. This is the case even whereby expenditure is incurred.

Whilst, therefore, the specific vote was not, on this occasion, recorded, the vote being unanimous, I can advise that the following Council Members were present and voted in favour of this motion:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Mrs Patricia Rolfe, Cllr Mrs E Gould, Cllr A Rodriguez, Cllr R D Tillson, Cllr P P Tanner, Cllr J Phipps, Cllr P J Coe, Cllr D Lawton, Cllr Miss J M Hiscock, Cllr D L Evans, Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe, Cllr Mrs B Gregory, Cllr Ms P Snoad and Cllr C W Butler

On 12th December 2016, in light of the 75% of consultation respondents that had been in favour of the installation of a commemorative Town Bandstand and the provision of an annual summer concert season as well as an annual Royal Birthday Concert, it was the general consensus of opinion of those Members present that this project, which had previously been agreed in principle, should thereby be formally approved through to completion. The resolution to give full approval to the project was **proposed by Councillor Mrs Lonbay Kapoor and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gould**. Once again, the vote was **unanimous**. Therefore, whilst there is no requirement for a recorded vote, I can advise that the following Councillors voted to formally approve the bandstand project be progressed through to completion:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, Councillor Mrs Patricia Rolfe, Cllr Mrs E Gould, Cllr M J O'Neill, Cllr A Rodriguez, Cllr Mrs Lonbay Kapoor, Cllr R Tillson, Cllr P J Coe, Cllr D Lawton, Cllr Mrs P Metcalfe, Cllr D Evans, Cllr Ms P Snoad and Cllr C W Butler.

As you can see I have provided full and detailed responses to your questions and hope that you now have all the information you need.

On another point, it has also been noted that you have advised Members of the Public via social media that a large proportion of the capital sum achieved in selling ex-allotment land has now been re-directed to other projects, thereby reducing any sum available for the community hall and sports pavilion project.

This is also factually incorrect, since, a small proportion of the capital sum was set aside for a range of small capital projects right at the outset with the vast majority of the receipt being set aside for the community hall and sports pavilion project; the details of the allocations have been published for public perusal on the Town Council website for at least the past two years under Documents - Capital Spending Plan. It is clearly evident that the sum initially set aside for this much desired project is still as per the original allocation of £630,000.00..

C Newcombe – Town Clerk
For and on behalf of New Romney Town Council