

DECISION ITEM

| REPORT OF | MEETING | DATE | ITEM NO |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE | TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE | 7 JANUARY 2021 | 4 |
| BOBBY BALL MEMORIAL STATUE | | | |

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report presents the outcome of and next steps following a notice of motion which was supported by Council on 7 December 2020 to erect a statue of Bobby Ball in Lowther Gardens, supported by public donations and with the backing of the council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee are requested to:

1. Agree that Fylde Council would provide Lowther Trust with support in delivering the Bobby Ball Memorial Statue project in the form of communications, publicity, procurement advice/support, and technical advice/support.
2. Note that periodic reports will be brought to the committee to inform members of progress being made towards delivery of the project.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council 7 December 2020

Following notice given under rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, the following Motion was proposed by Councillor Karen Buckley; "The council notes with sadness the recent passing of Bobby Ball, who brought laughter to millions over many years, and was well-known and well-loved in and about Lytham, where he chose to make his home. To mark and celebrate his life, it would be fitting for a statue of Bobby to be erected in Lowther Gardens, supported by public donations and with the backing of the council. The council delegates responsibility to the Head of Governance, in consultation with the Leader and Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee, to liaise with the family and Lowther Trust to set up an appropriate vehicle for this purpose and with a view to a report being brought to the next Tourism and Leisure Committee."

A vote was taken and it was AGREED unanimously to support the motion.

| CORPORATE PRIORITIES | |
|--|---|
| Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy | |
| Environment – To deliver services customers expect | |
| Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way | √ |
| Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit | √ |

REPORT

BACKGROUND

1. Bobby Ball, comic, actor, singer and Lytham resident died on 28 October 2020. Bobby Ball, born Robert Harper on 28 January 1944, was best known as a member of the comic double act Cannon and Ball and went on to star in various sitcoms and dramas. Bobby and his wife Yvonne lived in the Fylde for over 25 years.
2. Bobby was very much part of the local community and was a great supporter of Lowther Pavilion and had latterly become a patron of the Lowther Trust and had performed at the venue many times, including the staging of the first play he wrote, 'Rock Off Tommy'. He and his wife Yvonne were also Patrons of the Blue Skies Charity which supported the work of Blackpool Victoria and Clifton Hospitals.
3. Following his sad passing, the following notice of motion was submitted by Councillor Karen Buckley which was debated by Council on 7 December 2020 and unanimously agreed.
"The council notes with sadness the recent passing of Bobby Ball, who brought laughter to millions over many years, and was well-known and well-loved in and about Lytham, where he chose to make his home. To mark and celebrate his life, it would be fitting for a statue of Bobby to be erected in Lowther Gardens, supported by public donations and with the backing of the council. The council delegates responsibility to the Head of Governance, in consultation with the Leader and Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee, to liaise with the family and Lowther Trust to set up an appropriate vehicle for this purpose and with a view to a report being brought to the next Tourism and Leisure Committee."
4. Lowther Trust has agreed to raise funds for a special memorial statue of Bobby Ball that will be situated in Lowther Gardens. The proposed statue would be a one and a half times life size bronze statue of Bobby. A [JustGiving page](#) has been set up by Lowther Trust to help raise the funds required which are estimated to be in the region of £100,000 which would include the cost of the statue, plinth, installation, landscaping and lighting.
5. Since the notice of motion was agreed there has been close liaison with the Bobby's family. There has also been a site visit to discuss a position for the statue which has been agreed by Lowther Trust, subject to planning permission.
6. The process to take this project forward includes the drafting of a brief for the design, construction/landscape details, consultation, procurement of a sculptor, seeking planning permission and commissioning and installation of the statue. This process is estimated to take a minimum of 12 months subject to sufficient funds being collected.
7. It is proposed that Fylde Council would provide Lowther Trust with support in delivering this project which would be in the form of communications, publicity, procurement advice/support, and technical advice/support. Members are asked to agree to this support being provided to Lowther Trust to help achieve this project.
8. It is proposed that periodic reports will be brought to the committee to inform members of progress being made towards delivery of the project.

| IMPLICATIONS | |
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| Finance | There are no financial implications identified at this stage |
| Legal | There are no legal implications for the council at this stage. Lowther Trust is the accountable body using the charitable funds of the trust. Any money donated through the Just Giving page will become part of the Trust's charitable funds. Procurement of the statue will need to go through the Trust's procedures. |
| Community Safety | There are no implications |
| Human Rights and Equalities | There are no implications |
| Sustainability and Environmental Impact | There are no implications |
| Health & Safety and Risk Management | There are no implications |

| LEAD AUTHOR | CONTACT DETAILS | DATE |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| Paul Walker | Paul.walker@fylde.gov.uk Tel 01253 658431 | 15 December 2020 |

| BACKGROUND PAPERS | | |
|-------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| Name of document | Date | Where available for inspection |
| Document name | | Council office or web address |