

**Report to:** Executive Member for Culture and Leisure  
30<sup>TH</sup> June 2005

**Report from:** Head of Cultural Services

**Report written by:** Faye Bradley, Arts Development Officer

**Subject:** Round Tower, Bronze Plaque

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2005

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### **Purpose of Report**

To report progress about the replacement of the bronze plaque at the Round Tower in Old Portsmouth.

### **Recommendation**

That the progress made concerning the replacement of the bronze plaque on the Round Tower be noted, and that the plans to complete the work be approved, subject to the necessary finance being secured as proposed.

### **Background**

1. The Round Tower stands at the west end of Eighteen-Gun Battery and is of special interest as the first permanent defensive works to be built at Portsmouth after the town was sacked by the French a number of times in the 1300s, being burnt virtually to destruction in 1338, 1369, 1377, 1380. These raids led to the immediate construction of a basic earth wall and moat. The later stonewall was supported by the Round Tower in about 1418, built for the purpose of deterring any armed enemy ships. In 1422, a chain was built across the harbour entrance, winched from the Round Tower to allow it to be raised at times of crisis. In 1494, the Square Tower was built to complement the Round Tower.
2. In the 1960s a bronze relief map of the harbour mouth, the eastern Solent and the Isle of Wight was installed on top of one of the gun emplacements. Regrettably, during some repair work on the tower approximately 10 years ago, the plaque went missing.
3. In the past few years there has been significant progress in raising awareness of the value of the information plaque and obtaining support from local Councillors, residents and members of The Friends of Old Portsmouth to try and get the plaque replaced.

### **Current Situation**

4. A strong partnership has now developed between Faye Bradley at City Arts and Anita Stepnitz, secretary to Friends of Old Portsmouth Association (FOOPA). This partnership has been beneficial in terms of consulting the various interested organisations and the residents of Old Portsmouth about the content of the plaque. Over the past month regular meetings have taken place to try and complete the project as soon as possible.

5. After consulting with City Planning, English Heritage and the DCMS regarding Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) it was agreed that SMC was not required, as the plaque would be installed onto an existing cement column. This column however requires a small amount of work before installation, which Building Control has agreed to undertake and fund fully through landlord's maintenance.
6. The Fletcher Foundry from Derbyshire will be undertaking the design of the Bronze Plaque, which will be a simple low relief replacement. Some extra landmarks and relatively new sites such as the site of the Mary Rose and the Spinnaker Tower will be added. Following discussions with FOOPA a list of landmarks to feature on the new Plaque was compiled; sites will be a selection from the following list:

Bembridge Lifeboat Station	HMS Dolphin Submarine Diving Tower
Cathedral	Millennium Tower (Spinnaker Tower)
Clarence Pier	Nab Tower
Clarence Yard	No Mans Land Fort
Fort Blockhouse Gun Battery	Ryde Pier
Fort Nelson	Seaview
Fort Southwick	Site of Mary Rose wreck
Gilkicker	Spire of All Saints Church, Ryde
Gospport	Spitbank Fort
Gunwharf	Square Tower
Haslar Creek	Victoria Pier
Haslar Marina	War Memorial in Southsea
Horse Sand Fort	Wyllie's House

### **Funding**

7. The estimated cost from Fletcher Foundry for the bronze plaque replacement is £1500 excluding VAT. There is a possibility that it may cost slightly more to incorporate basic design and installation, but this will not be known until the design work is underway within the next few weeks.

Income:

£1000            Neighbourhood Initiative  
£500             FOOPA

### **Timescale**

8. It was hoped that the plaque could be in situ for the International Festival Of the Sea (IFOS) in July 2005 but regrettably the consultation regarding SMC consent from English Heritage has now slightly delayed the process. The design is currently going to the foundry and it is hoped that they will be able to produce the plaque within six weeks. Although it will not be in place for IFOS it will be in situ for the remaining busy summer months of Sea Britain and Trafalgar 200 activities and events. The current target is to have the plaque reinstated no later than the end of July 2005.

**Approximate timeline:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>
Complete outline design and send to foundry	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	FB & AS
See initial design by Foundry	20 <sup>th</sup> June	FB & AS
Confirm Production	24 <sup>th</sup> June	FB
Arrange maintenance work on cement column	8 <sup>th</sup> July	FB
Install Bronze Plaque by:	22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Fletcher Foundry

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**Head of Cultural Services**

**Background papers**

There are no background papers

**Approved/Approved as Amended/Rejected/Deferred by the Executive Member  
for Culture & Leisure on 30 June 2005**

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**Councillor Terry Hall  
Executive Member for Culture & Leisure**