



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee: 25 November 2024  
Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director - Communities & Environment  
Lead Officers: Carl Burns, Transformation & Service Improvement Manager  
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Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Consultation Results on the Proposal to Site the 'Kiddey Stones' at Castle House.
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To present the results of the recent consultation on the proposal to site the Kiddey Stones at Castle House.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee: a) note the contents of the report and consultation responses as detailed in Appendices A to E; and b) consider the consultation responses, with any comments being forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at their meeting to be held on 10 December 2024.

## 1.0 Background

1.1 The proposal to site the works of renowned artist Robert Kiddey at Castle House was submitted to Cabinet on 3 June 2024. These works are commonly known as the 'Kiddey Stones' or 'Kiddey Sculptures' and the preferred option is for the stones to be displayed outside Castle House.

1.2 The full details of the proposal can be seen in the background papers listed at the end of this report. However, listed below are the recommendations that were agreed by Cabinet.

- Approve in principle the design and location of the Kiddey Stones to be installed at Castle House, Newark;
- Support a period of public consultation on the proposals to enable residents and stakeholders to have their views on the plans, including the Town Council in whose ownership the stones are in; and
- Agree that a report is brought back to Cabinet in September 2024 to formally endorse the scheme, or otherwise, with a budget to be included in the Council's capital programme.

1.3 Cabinet agreed, in principle, with these proposals pending a public consultation. Following this decision a topic request was raised through the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee. The topic request included the request to understand 'the

extent of information given within the consultation document and access public responses'. The Chair agreed that a working group would be formed and to allow sufficient time for this the consultation was delayed. Therefore, the follow up report will be brought back to Cabinet in December 2024.

- 1.4 The working group was chaired by Cllr Andy Freeman and held its first meeting on 15 August 2024. This was attended by 6 Members who were supported by 3 officers. During the meeting the outline plan for the public consultation was agreed and the meeting concluded with all Members agreeing on the proposed consultation method with the consensus that it allowed the public to provide their opinion in a fair and inclusive manner.

## **2.0 Consultation Method**

- 2.1 The approach used for the consultation mirrored that of the Library Gardens consultation in 2022 and therefore consisted of key stakeholder meetings followed by an open survey which was available online. Due to the detailed plans and illustrations, a dedicated webpage on the NSDC website was created and outlined the Kidney Stones proposals. Social media platforms were also utilised, with a number of scheduled posts promoting the consultation being shared throughout the consultation period. The consultation was also emailed out to the Resident Panel, Parish Councils and Tourist partners to invite them to share their views on the proposals.

### Key Stakeholder Groups

- 2.2 The project group met with representatives from the Newark Civic Trust, Newark Town Council and Nottinghamshire Police. All of these groups indicated that they were in support of the proposal and the full detail of their responses can be found in the appendices.

### Open Survey

- 2.3 The survey consisted of three questions. The first two questions collected geographical data from our respondents by asking for their postcode details and their status as a resident/visitor to Newark and Sherwood. The final question was an open text box which was restricted to 150 words and allowed the respondent to share their views on the proposal in their own words.

### Communication Plan

- 2.4 The consultation was supported by our Communication & Marketing team and an article was published on our website advertising the survey. The article also gave the full background of the proposal. This allowed our residents the opportunity to learn the detail of the proposal before submitting their response. The following steps were taken in launching the public consultation which again followed the lessons learned from the Library Gardens work.

- The webpage was linked from the alert banner on the home page of the NSDC website and was the featured news story on the homepage periodically during the consultation period.

- The Communication and Marketing Manager drafted a media release using the copy from the webpage with the addition of a quote from Councillor Rowan Cozens, who is the portfolio holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts.
- The media release was shared with local media, including the Newark Advertiser and Radio Newark.
- Regular social media posts were also released on the NSDC channels throughout the consultation period.
- A poster was also designed and distributed to all Parish Councils in the district. This included details of the proposal and directions on how residents could have their say.
- The Resident Panel were contacted via email with details of the consultation and invited to share their views.

### Consultation and Analysis

- 2.5 Following the working group meeting in August, steps were made to develop and launch the consultation. As agreed by the working group the online survey would be live from Monday, 2 September until midnight on Monday, 30 September.
- 2.6 The consultation and subsequent analysis was undertaken by officers from the Transformation & Service Improvement team. Results were monitored weekly and any questions submitted by email or via our social media channels were answered where possible.

### Duplicate Responses Resulting in % Error

- 2.7 Errors caused by multiple entries from single users in survey analysis can significantly impact the validity and reliability of the results. Duplicate responses can lead to overrepresentation of certain views, introducing bias and skewing the data. This results in an inflated sample size, which can lead to incorrect statistical inferences. Causes of these errors include technical issues, user behaviour and lack of controls embedded within the survey. The detection method included in this survey analysis involved using IP address tracking. This enabled officers to identify multiple entries from the same device/location and the results listed in the report above include all complete survey entries. However, it should be noted that if entries were restricted to two per household/IP address the results in the table below would be the representative results. Therefore, the % error of this consultation is reported as 3.53%.
- 2.8 The full results of the consultation can be seen in full at Appendix A

### **3.0 Proposal/Options Considered**

- 3.1 That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note the contents of the report and consultation responses as detailed in **Appendices A to E**; and
- 3.2 That consideration be given to the consultation responses, with any comments being forwarded to the Cabinet for consideration at their meeting to be held on 10 December 2024

#### **4.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

##### Financial Implications (FIN24-25/6777)

- 4.1 A budget of £20,000 was made available to carry out the feasibility works described in the Cabinet Report dated 04/06/24. At the point of writing, £17,525 had been committed to date.
- 4.2 Based on the costs shown at paragraph 2.4 of the Cabinet Report dated 04/06/24, £81,240 the additional revenue costs of the construction will be £5,687 per year. That is £1,625 in Minimum Revenue Provision and £4,062 in interest over a 50 year period.
- 4.3 Now the consultation has ended, a final report will be brought to Cabinet in December 2024, which subject to member approval, the costs to complete the build will be added to the Capital Programme, along with identifying additional revenue costs for maintenance and cleaning.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Cabinet Report 04/06/2024](#)
- [Cabinet Report appendices 1-6](#)
- [Kiddey Stones - Public Consultation | Newark & Sherwood District Council](#)