

South Lakeland District Council
Full Council
18 December 2018
Petition

Report from: Debbie Storr - Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer)
Report Author: Debbie Storr – Director of Policy and Resources (Monitoring Officer)

1.0 Expected Outcome

1.1 That Council receives and debates the Petition and decides on how to respond.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Members:-

- (1) Debate the petition proposing that the restoration of the Lido includes a swimming pool;**
- (2) Request any comments made during the debate be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration as part of the decision-making process; and**
- (3) Delegates authority to the Director of Policy and Resources, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to formulate any necessary response that accords with the decision of the Council.**

3.0 Background

- 3.1 This report provides background information following receipt of a Petition by representatives on behalf of Save Grange Lido.
- 3.2 The wording of the petition is as follows:
“We want GRANGE LIDO restoration to include the SWIMMING POOL, and South Lakeland District Council to confirm that any option without a swimming pool will be ruled out”.
- 3.3 The Council's Petition Scheme states that petitions which contain over 1000 signatures will be debated by full Council. The petition needs to give the signatories' name' and addresses and those people signing must live, work or study in the authority's area.
- 3.4 The petition to be debated today was presented to Council at its meeting on 10 October 2018 and has been verified in terms of numbers of signatures required. Over 1000 of those signing meet the requirements of the Council's Petition Scheme.
- 3.5 Under the Petitions Scheme the petition organiser has 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be debated by councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. At the conclusion of the debate the Council has to decide how to respond to the petition.
- 3.6 The Petition's scheme sets out how the Council may respond to the petition. They include to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant Committee.

- 3.7 The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of what action, if any, Members decide to take. This will also be published on the website.

Information on Lido – Current Position

- 3.8 To assist Council in debating the content of the petition the background to the current position is set out below.
- 3.9 In 1993, the outdoor pool at Grange-over-Sands was closed due to the need for significant improvement works, a leak in the pool basin, and low usage.
- 3.10 A number of proposals have come forward since its closure in 1993, including the Berner's Vision Partnership which looked at the wider development opportunities on and around Berner's Close, though no schemes have come to fruition for a number of reasons, and the site remains empty and in an increasingly deteriorating state.
- 3.11 Berner's Pool, the indoor swimming pool, was opened in 2003 following a Sports England grant of £2.5m (total project cost £3.3m), however the facility closed in 2006 due to structural faults, low usage and management difficulties, and was eventually demolished in 2013.
- 3.12 The lido site was listed by Historic England in 2011 as Grade II for the following:
- Completeness: as a complete example of a 1930s lido with the survival of all key ancillary buildings and structures
 - Pool: for the unusually shaped pool, designed for a multiple uses and which retains its original stepped diving stage.
 - Historic: as an evocative reminder of the former popularity of sea-side town such as Grange over Sands and the inter-war cult of fresh air, fitness and mass leisure (www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1402086).
- 3.13 In 2013/14, the Council commissioned a series of studies on potential options regarding bringing the Lido back into community use. A number of options were considered, including restoration of the swimming pool. The report indicated that a swimming pool would not be financially viable and would require subsidy from the Council. Subsequent work to this report focused on bringing the site back in to public use, without a pool, in a manner that would not prejudice future restoration of the pool.
- 3.14 The option identified as making best use of the asset was to restore it so that it could be a mixed use community facility comprising business and leisure opportunities. This includes stabilisation of the entire site including the sea wall coastal defences; restoring the buildings for potential end users and tenants such as a café, restaurant, artist studio, retail, community, heritage and education centre; a temporary infill of the pool basin that could be removed at a later date to accommodate a pool restoration, subject to a viable business case and capital funding; a landscaped space within the pool that allows for small scale events, festivals and markets, to enhance the existing promenade offer; reconnecting the former lido site with the promenade to make it entirely accessible for the community, and preserving the site so that it is not permanently lost; and critically, minimising ongoing preservation costs with a long term and low cost maintenance strategy. Current designs are sympathetic to the heritage and have support from Historic England.
- 3.15 In 2018, Full Council approved a £140k revenue growth bid to progress with designs for the site and agreed that the next phase of feasibility works should be commissioned. This design work continues to RIBA stage 4, whereby the technical designs will be completed, when consideration can be given to any planning and listed building consents that may be required.

- 3.16 However, prior to any submission of planning or building consent applications, Cabinet will be asked to consider the outcome of the current phase of design work, and to approve the next stages. It is anticipated that a report will be presented to the 23 January 2019 meeting of Cabinet. The draft budget report later in the agenda for this meeting includes an element of funding for the Lido site and will be subject to final approval at the Council meeting on 26 February 2019.
- 3.17 In order for Cabinet to make an informed decision, Full Council may consider it appropriate to forward any comments arising out of its debate to Cabinet to take into account when reaching a decision as to future actions regarding the lido.
- 3.18 Having regard to the above it is advised that the representations arising from the Petition be forwarded to the relevant Portfolio Holder for consideration as part of the Cabinet's future deliberations on this matter.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 Not applicable. The report is to receive a petition under the Council's Petition Scheme.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The options are as set out in the report in terms of how the Council may respond to the Petition.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 Economy: we will when opportunities present themselves make best use of our property portfolio to support economic growth, through the use of our current and future asset base.

Environment: the council and its communities will enhance and protect the district's heritage and high quality environment.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 Funding for the Grange Lido site is included in the 2019/20 Capital Programme which will be subject to full Council approval in February 2019. A total of £1.9m capital investment from SLDC is being sought for the former site.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report

Legal

- 7.3 There is no statutory process for local authorities to follow with regards to receipt of petitions. The Council is legally required to follow its own Standing Orders in relation to how petitions are dealt with. The steps taken by the Council accord with its Standing Orders.
- 7.4 Under the Council's Constitution and relevant legislation, decisions regarding the use of Council assets is an Executive function. Full Council will be asked to approve the capital funding associated with this project at a later stage.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.5 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.6 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? Not applicable.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
No investment in Grange Lido.	<p>Preservation costs continue to increase and structural integrity of the site worsens leading to increased Capital costs in the future.</p> <p>Risk of full or partial collapse of structures on site.</p> <p>Reputational damage for the Council over inactivity and the appearance of a stop/start approach.</p> <p>The Lido is added to the Heritage At Risk register with Historic England.</p>	<p>Continue to work up a scheme in keeping with the site and its listing, that provides access to all, minimises running cost but which gives the option of the site being converted back into an open air swimming pool if funding becomes available in the future where there is a viable business case in place.</p> <p>Council to work up RIBA Stage 4 (Technical design) for the current scheme designed by the Councils appointed Designer.</p>

Contact Officers

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Background Documents Available

[Petitions Scheme](#)