



Coleridge Memorial Project

at Ottery St Mary, Devon, UK

Bulletin no2

Please forward this to anyone with an interest in Ottery and / or Coleridge. Also - please stay in touch - if you read anything here that you'd like to comment on, use the online comment form at

www.otteryheritage.org.uk/page_1264015114553.html

The second meeting of the project group took place last Thursday (25th Feb 2010) to review progress of the public consultation exercise and plan the next few moves.

In brief the committee decided...

1). **To extend the consultation period by a couple of weeks** to mop up any additional returns resulting from a second splash in our local news magazine, the Ottery Gazette. Consultation results so far are summarised below. Many thanks to those of you who have responded with suggestions. **If you haven't yet expressed your own view, please make a point of doing so prior to the 14th March deadline.** You will of course be able to comment on anything at anytime (see above) but the decision on what type of memorial we take forward will have to be made shortly).

2). **To establish a firmer footing for managing the financial aspects of the projects.**

Although we don't have a single penny to oversee just yet, already there are issues on which need expert help - VAT, possible bridging loans, audit issues and so forth. A number of approaches are in the pipeline, and we hope to have someone prepared to deal with this soon.

3). **Estimates of Cost**

Having taken account of the general direction of the consultation replies, the committee received a report of estimates on the statue and poetry stones ideas. Depending on the final options chosen to go to tender (see consultation results below), the costs for the statue will range between £47K and £75K. The poetry stones idea is costed much lower at present, but this was on a less detailed brief to the supplier so we are not confident enough to come up with numbers just yet. The statue costs will include VAT, (our current advice is that we have to pay this).

4). **Fundraising**

Potential sources of funds were identified and applications for some of these are in preparation. If (as is quite likely) additional funds are required from individual donations, rather than just asking for cash, the committee was keen to consider more innovative and rewarding ways in which people can contribute. Some suggestions were made but more work is needed before we can conclude anything.

There was some general discussion about funds arising from section 106 provisions (community support) associated with planning applications for development in Ottery St Mary. Whilst the committee has no view on the merits or otherwise of any particular development, it was felt prudent to signal our interest in section 106 funding should it arise.

5). **Publicity**

To date the project has had significant local exposure in the Gazette, and some useful correspondence has been generated. We are grateful to the Friends of Coleridge for a banner on the homepage of their website and a notice on the wall of their Facebook. The Heritage Society's website has been of great value in collecting comments.

Consultation - what you said so far...

At the moment we have over 50 replies and about 3000 words of thoughts and suggestions, and even a couple of drawings!

The figures below represent just raw preferences. All your ideas and comments will be carefully analysed to guide the committee to a conclusion. The results will be published a little later this year.

62% expressed a liking for the idea of a well executed traditional statue. The option of a modern statue has not appealed at all - it is probably not an easy option to respond to. The idea of a sculpture to express a Coleridge theme is faring a little better - 10% favour this idea, but the idea of poetry stones is also proving very popular - 38% ticked this option so far. There were also some one off suggestions: A Cave of Ice; a live Ancient Mariner, wandering around Ottery reciting the Rime; an Albatross hot air balloon tethered over Ottery and a Pavement with the whole of Kubla Khan engraved on it!

The committee is grateful to everyone who has made the effort to contribute. Please make sure everyone you know has put their views to the committee.

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