



TIME AND TIDE PROJECT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 87/21

8 NOVEMBER 2021

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Time and Tide Project and a basis for a Town Council decision on support for the proposed Ventnor element of it.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Councillor Phil Warren introduced the national Time and Tide project to the Town Council at its meeting of 21 June 2021 and Minute 69/21 of that meeting records the unanimous resolution that:
 - the Town Council is supportive of the project in principle and asks Councillor Phil Warren to return to a future Town Council meeting with a detailed and costed proposals.
 - b) Councillor Phil Warren has now been able to provide the additional information requested and that is attached to this Report.
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2) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree its involvement with the Project.

Ventnor Time and Tide Bell Proposal

For submission to Ventnor Town Council

Full Council Meeting - Monday 8th November

Current position

The project has progressed through the design and early planning phase and has reached the point where the planning application can be submitted. The chosen location on the foreshore is within an area designated as Crown Property and provisional enquiries to the Isle of Wight Council have indicated that they would be happy with its placement subject to the following:-

1. That the Time and Tide project organisation are responsible for any legal costs incurred payable to the Crown Estate or IWC.
2. That Ventnor Town Council becomes the accountable body.
3. It is conditional on IWC approval of the proposed design and method of installation (marine fixings). *NB this is necessary for MMO licence consent.*

The full details of the proposed installation of Ventnor's Time and Tide Bell are provided in the attached synopsis. Separate images for the bell's design and also its exact location as a 3-D photo-montage are also provided. These serve to answer the key questions of location and appearance. The exact location is on the beach, beside the rocks and just beyond the steps on the Western side of the harbour.

The design of the bell is unique to the Ventnor installation and reflects the specific requirements of its chosen location. The bell will be supported by a minimal tubular stainless steel structure which will give the appearance that the bell is suspended or floating as the tide rises

Answers to Key Questions

(NB these are from the sculptor Marcus Vergette - received 20th October 2021)

1. The agreed target installation date is spring next year - 22nd April 2022
2. The method of installation will use heli-piles driven through the shingle. The anticipated cost based on previous installations being approximately £4000.
3. The responsibilities for VTC as the accountable body:-
 - i) These will add nothing to the bell owner's premium for public liability as so much else of a similar nature is covered within the public domain. Nothing untoward has occurred to date at any other bell site.
 - ii) The design of the bell and its structure is responsible and has considered the many health and safety aspects. Also in response to the input given during consultation the design makes it particularly difficult to climb.

Impact on the local environment

1. The sound generated is low and harmonious, first travelling upwards before dispersal and will be around 30 - 40 decibels at the Esplanade.
2. The footprint of the installation is small and overall the structure will not be an imposing significant mass to spoil the visual amenity

Costings

A detailed breakdown of costs is given at the start of the synopsis. Those currently uncommitted and found under “*will require fund raising*” include a legacy payment of £5000 to made to VTC to cover future maintenance and insurance.

The overall estimated costs of £22,750 for this section are best “high” estimates at this stage especially those associated with *fabrication and installation* and also with *haulage, craneage and placement*.

Benefits

Once installed the Ventnor Time and Tide Bell will provide:-

- ✧ A community focal point that will generate further activities and art projects.
- ✧ A learning resource for schools and the general community.
- ✧ Awareness and demonstration of rising sea levels with global warming.
- ✧ Membership of the UK coastal towns bell community.

Marketing and fund raising

Events are planned using the half bell which will be made accessible to Ventnor schools and also the wider community.

Collaboration request

Sculpture South states that - “We will work closely with Time and Tide.org and the Bell’s new owners - *We hope that VTC will adopt This Bell with a mission to*”.

- ✧ Install and maintain Marcus Vergette’s Time and Tide Bell as a work of art for public benefit.
- ✧ Raise public awareness of the IOW’s coastal environment and people’s relationship with the sea throughout history and into the future.
- ✧ Raise public awareness of the effects and consequences of global warming, climate change and sea level rise.
- ✧ To support the use of sculpture in the exploration of the IOW’s changing coastal environment and the consequences of global warming.

Proposal

- ✧ That Ventnor Town Council choses to adopt their own Time and Tide Bell and become its legal owner.
- ✧ That Ventnor Town Council support the planning application to Isle of Wight Council that is ready for submission.
- ✧ That Ventnor Town Council chooses to be or recommends an alternative proposer for the application.

NB This proposal should be read in conjunction with the other supporting documents provided.

Phil Warren
(Ventnor Bell Champion)
November 2nd 2021

Synopsis of Time and Tide Bell Project for Presentation to Ventnor Town Council

Costings:

The following items are gifted to Ventnor as part of the Time and Tide Bell project:

• The Bell	£55,000.00
• The design of the clacker	£5,000.00
• The design of the support structure	(incl. above)
• The cost of the Planning Application	<u>£250.00</u>
Sub-total	£60,250.00

The following items are gifted to Ventnor by virtue of the time and energy given by individuals and professionals supporting Sculpture South and Venture South to help realise this project for the Island:

• Completion of the Planning Application and Technical Reports	£2,000.00 (ERMC)
• The design of any fixings/sub-structure works	£3,000.00 (to be secured)
• Legal costs in creation of lease in favour of VTC	<u>£1,500.00</u> (to be secured)
Sub-Total	£6,500.00

The following are items requiring fund raising:

• Investigations into Specialist marine fixings	£1,250.00
• Marine fixings	£4,000.00 (prov.)
• Fabrication and installation costs of sub-structure	£10,000.00
• Haulage, craneage and placement costs for the Bell	£2,500.00
• Legacy payment to VTC for future maintenance/insurance	<u>£5,000.00</u>
Sub-total	£22,750.00

Technical Reports:

General:

The Time and Tide Bells are unique pieces of Public Art that stands between the high and low tide marks around the UK Coast. Seven such Bells have been installed since the project's inception in 2008, including those in London, Scotland, Wales, Lincolnshire, and Devon. A further 6 Bells are currently under consideration, including one on the Isle of Wight.

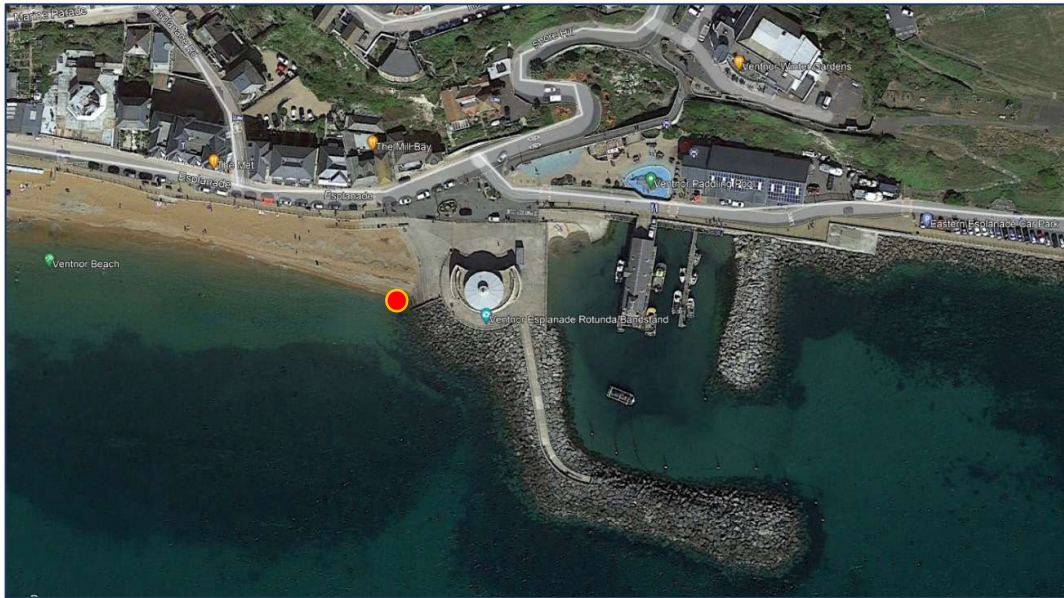
The Bell is designed to resonate with the ebb and flow of our coastal waters, raising awareness of the rise in sea levels through global warming in the process. It will add a new feature of cultural interest, which is of relevance to its setting in a coastal town and coastal community, reminding people of their long history and synergy with the sea.

It is hoped that Ventnor will now become one of the 'Bell Communities', a unique band of 16 sites around the UK's coastline. Ventnor will thereby be able to tap into a wealth of knowledge and into programmes designed to educate the public in the physical and natural environment, and its conservation, protection, and improvement by the promotion of outdoor learning and engagement with the shores of the UK.

Location:

The Bell is to be located at the base of the eastern steps onto the beach, alongside the Rotunda Bandstand. The Bell needs to be located within the tidal foreshore, between the high and low tide marks, to function successfully, be installed safely and to be publicly accessible.

The proposed site is currently within the coastal foreshore portfolio of the Crown Estate but is leased to the IOW. Both Crown Estate and IOW have been approached for their approval to site the Bell here. A licence to operate will eventually be granted to Ventnor to site the Bell here.

**Acoustics:**

The Bell rings gently at high tide. The sound is not disruptive and has a close relationship with the sea state. The rise of the sea at high tide causes the clapper to strike the Bell. Played by the movement of the waves the Bell then creates varying sound patterns. As the sea level rises, the periods of bell strikes become more frequent and, as increasingly submerged, the pitch varies.

The noise level of the Bell has been measured at source at various installations, revealing sound levels of 70 dB, or the equivalent to the level of a domestic TV or radio. Whilst this may be disruptive in a domestic situation, the ambient noise levels of the surf on shingle, on what is a busy tourist beach, are such that this will seem part of the general noise scenery.

At night, or at quieter times, the Bell is situated far enough away from any housing (40 - 80m away) that noise levels will have dissipated to between a half to a quarter of their original levels. It is believed that the sound of the Bell will not be significant at these points or discernible above the background noise of the sea.

Ecology:

The Bell lies to the north of the South Wight Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC), however, the beach at Ventnor and the new harbour construction are not seen as being critically material to the quality, integrity, or function of the SAC. This section of coastline has been significantly altered over the past century by coastal engineering and, subsequently, provides a tough habitat for wildlife.

The Bell will not affect any habitat created within the rocks, it won't leach anything into the water or block any surfaces from colonization. The mounting is designed to sit lightly within the surrounding landscape and the historic setting of Ventnor seafront.

Flood Risk:

The Bell is considered 'water-compatible development' (i.e. amenity/open space/recreation). It is designed to be submerged and is an open structure allowing water to move through it, so will not cause water to be diverted elsewhere.

The proposed materials, of marine bronze and stainless steel, are robust and durable and capable of withstanding most storm-tossed debris.

Heritage:

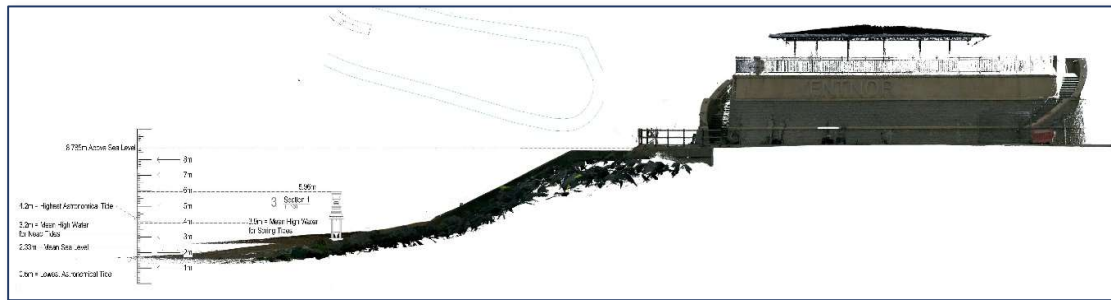
Ventnor is a natural bay that has a long history of intervention through major coastal engineering works, from the formation of the embankment called the Esplanade (roughly 1860) through to the recent improvements to form the Haven and the Rotunda Bandstand (2003), the latter being successful enough to be included within the Conservation Area. Ventnor is proud of its historic seafront without being afraid to embrace change.

The Bell's installation is, by comparison, a benign intervention that will not block or obscure views of the sea front from any vantage point, nor will it interrupt the line of the Esplanade. And, although designed to be a lasting piece of public art it is, nevertheless, relatively small in comparison to its surroundings and could be removed, without detriment to the site, in the future if deemed necessary.

This particular piece of public art has both a local and national resonance and will serve as a fitting addition to the Conservation Area that will both help promote and keep its timeline alive and relevant to its coastal setting.

Bell Benefits:

- The Bell can act as a powerful catalyst for community activity such as celebrations, tourism and education. The Bells stimulate creativity whilst highlighting the threat of rising sea levels driven by global warming.
- The Bell can attract funds and support from organisations such as 'Venture South', who are currently helping the Island to create a programme of creative school activity based on coastal themes and climate change.
- The Bell will, at once, widen Ventnor's horizons, becoming part of a wider network of similar installations nationwide, whilst helping people to focus on the benefits and special features of its own unique and particular location.
- The Bells are cast centrally to reduce costs, but the mountings are bespoke and procured locally. Once a destination site is agreed, local communities are given completely free rein to their naming, and the inscriptions they bear. They will 'own' their version of the Bell.



Section showing the scale and location of the Bell in comparison to the Rotunda

