

Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 June 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide details of a proposal for a public art installation in Portstewart for Members consideration.

2.0 Protection from Stalking Bill

Correspondence has been received from Mr Sam Burnside (attached) regarding a proposed art installation to acknowledge the cultural contribution made by two sons of Portstewart, Henry McCullough and Jimmy Kennedy.

3.0 Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the proposal made by Mr Burnside.

From: Sam Burnside (samuelburnside@aol.com)
Eglinton, Co Londonderry.
T. 07988884149

To: Mr Jackson, Town Clerk / CEO,
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Subject: A proposal for a public art installation that acknowledges the cultural contribution made by two sons of Portstewart.

Background

After many years developing poetry in the community and writing and publishing poetry I have developed a growing interest in the concept of Poetry in Public. I attach some examples of my work, below.

I have a particular interest in Portstewart, (hence this poem) and have given a copy of it to Rae Morrison, Portstewart (Sister of the late Henry McCullough, legendary guitarist, and she has shared it with others, some as far afield as Canada.

The songwriter Jimmy Kennedy OBE is of course very much associated with Portstewart, an association kept alive by the Red Sails Festival.

I have also shared this idea of this "public poem" with residents, including Mrs Alison Millar LL and Karen Girvan: Mrs Millar suggested I contact you regarding the initiative, hence this email.

I am happy to donate copyright of the poem to the Council. The cost of inscribing the text on (say) for example a large stone placed in an appropriate site along waterfront and designed to enhance the civic space of the town, would be minimal.

Poems made visible

Inscribed on glass or carved into large free-standing stone (or a slate or granite slab fixed to a wall) and placed in a public or civic context, cultural meaning and significance is conveyed powerfully by a poem's visibility. The sense of a shared humanity created and expressed, for example, in Brackfield Memorial Woods Public poetry (see below), makes affective life immediately tangible by foregrounding the soldiers' experiences. This can lead to the formation of a two-way link through memory of past and present generations in a new and powerful way, allowing history to infiltrate directly into and live in contemporary consciousness.

Another example of this can be found in Belfast City Hall's "Spanish Window": This window marks the contribution of those Belfast citizens to the anti-fascist forces during the Spanish Civil War from 1936 – 1939. About 320 Irish volunteers fought against Franco's forces as members of the XV International Brigade. Of these, forty-eight were born in Belfast. Twelve died in Spain. The Spanish Civil War became for many an opportunity to stand against the growth of fascism. Men and women from all over the world answered the call to defend democracy and their working class counterparts.)

Sam Burnside

Examples of of Sam Burnside's work in "poetry in public"

1. Belfast City Council, Stained Glass Window in Belfast City Hall. A new stained glass window commissioned by Belfast Council to mark the contribution made by the people of Belfast to the Spanish Civil War. (Work chosen was selected via public competition.) Poet/Artist, Sam Burnside / Alpha Stained Glass
2. Three glass panels on the west elevation of historic Culmore Victoria Hall, now a dedicated "community Hub". Victoria Hall (formerly in the ownership of the Honourable the Irish Society, has been handed over as a community resource. This window has been conceived of by the organising committee as a celebration of the heritage of the Culmore area. Poet/artist Sam Burnside/Joe Campbell.
3. Derry and Strabane City Council, Garden of Reflection, a suite of themed Haiku poems incorporated into eight free-standing, stained glass panels. The garden, with seats strategically placed, is conceived of as a place of refuge, sanctuary and reflection located in the (urban) city centre. (Work selected via public competition.) Poet/Artist, Sam Burnside / Art Glass
4. Millennium Forum and Conference Centre: Derry-Londonderry: a long poem (consisting of 14 framed folios incorporating image and text, each with original art work). The poem first appeared in *The Recorder, The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society, NY, Fall, 1999*, Poet/Artist Sam Burnside/Leslie Nicholl
5. Woodland Trust (UK) at Brackfield Woods, Co. Londonderry: a series of eight stone plinths, each with its own sound pod, with a poem inscribed on each, forming a poetry trail through Brackfield Memorial Woods. These poems were first published by the Woodland Trust (*By Brackfield Bawn, Lapwing Poetry, Belfast, 2018, 2nd edition, sponsored by Armed Forces Covenant Fund, 2018*) as the result of a poet in residence initiative. The woods contain 40,000 trees planted in remembrance of the individuals from Ireland who gave their lives during the First World War. The programme was overseen by Brackfield Memorial Woodland Advisory Committee, chaired by Sir Dennis Desmond. Poet. Sam Burnside / implementation, Woodland Trust UK.

6. Poetry Wall: a poem on the theme of 'home' inscribed in glass bricks built in the form of a small glass wall, situated in a private garden in Londonderry.
Poet, Sam Burnside
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- Text -

The BreakingWave

Rain hammers on the anvil of the world,
Makes a mosaic of this grey and green shoreline,
Crenelated sea, tumbling rocks, crumbling earth.
What there is of natural light is not now flat,
It curves, ebbing and flowing, as grief does.
Suddenly, the heavy gates close; thud, thud.
The shuttered town is black; yet it is not
Wholly black, veined with life's oncoming force:
Light creeps, invades, challenges the heavy dark,
Through slitted eyes, luminosity seeps, seeps;
Light creeps around, over and under fences;
On softly singing wings¹ ghosts of seabirds.
Mist sliced by sails² as by a blood red knife.
Before death and after death there is life.

Sam Burnside

¹ An acknowledgement of [Henry McCullough](#), guitarist, who played in Paul McCartney's group **Wings** & at **Woodstock**.

² An acknowledgement of Jimmy Kennedy's song, **Red Sails in the Sunset**