Relocation of Bandstand
Heritage Statement

Purpose and Nature of Proposal

The bandstand is currently located in the Memorial Gardens on Longcauseway. It needs to be removed to allow the proposed improvements to the area to take place. Dewsbury Blueprint Project Board approved improvements on 18th October 2023. Improvements to Dewsbury Civic Space incorporate the Town Hall apron, Town Hall Way, the Memorial Gardens and the lay-by section of Longcauseway.

It is proposed that the bandstand is dismantled and re-erected at Crow Nest Park, which is Listed Grade II, where there is an existing base.

Planning History

The original Planning Application for the bandstand's erection in the Memorial Gardens is: 2013/91129. The Bandstand is not currently listed and is situated outside the conservation area (see submitted plan PP-01). It is understood that the bandstand may need to become listed if it is moved to the Park.

Conservation

Kirklees Senior Conservation Officer has been consulted and advised (2.2.24):

> *Crown Nest Park is a Grade II Park and Garden and within the Park and Garden, there are several other listed buildings/ structures including the Grade II War Memorial.*

As you have said, within Crow Nest there is an existing area of hardstanding, which is shown historically being a bandstand and this appears to have been present from the late 19th, early 20th century. We have found archive images of the original Bandstand, see below:

We are therefore satisfied that there was historically a bandstand in this location. We would likely be able to support placing the bandstand within Crow Nest as there is historic merit to support this…

While we could support the relocation of the stand, we would advise that the colour of the stand would likely need to be amended to reflect a more historic colour scheme, possible looking to a dark degree and gold scheme or possibly red, however, this could be discussed and agreed upon at a later stage.

As part of the relocation if approved, the Bandstand will be repainted as recommended.

It is understood that the bandstand may need to become listed if it is moved to the Park.

The Asset and Its Significance

Although the Bandstand is not currently listed, it is recognised that its removal from Longcauseway is removal of a community resource. However, the new development includes provision of a circular amphitheatre area very close to the current location of the bandstand; this area could be used for the same purpose if desired. The amphitheatre has the advantage of being a larger and more flexible space; it will provide a focal point and aims to unify the space, specifically linking the space with the Town Hall apron. It is also at ground level, so it is more accessible.

The relocation of the Bandstand to Crow Nest Park offers several advantages, such as:

- Preserving the resource as a community asset;
- Utilising an existing, but currently vacant, bandstand base in the park;
- Reviving the cultural heritage. Since the Second Word War, many bandstands have disappeared through disuse and neglect. More recently, efforts are being made

throughout the country to replace Bandstands in parks throughout the country, often with support of the Heritage Lottery Fund[1]

- Providing a centrepiece for the park;
- The current vacant bandstand base is neglected and used, but it is surrounded by grassy open space where people can sit and relax – a re-erected bandstand could act as a focal point for community events and a meeting place.
- It would offer opportunities to enhance the provision of music, of all types not just brass bands, and theatre to bring life to the park;
- Potentially providing Listed protection to the structure.

Parks has agreed to take responsibility for the Bandstand if located in Crow Nest Park.

Point for Consideration: there is currently lighting to the bandstand ceiling (it is unknown whether this is operational); a decision will need to be made about whether lighting is required at Crow Nest and, if so, funding for electrical installation will need to be found as will funding for on-going maintenance – the budget paying for relocation will not stretch to this. It may be that local groups might wish to become involved and apply for grant funding, e.g. Lottery.

[1] Paul Rabbitts (2021) *Bandstands are bouncing back.* Friends of Regent's Park. Available at: < https://www.friendsofregentspark.org/park-post/history/bandstands-are-bouncing-back > [Accessed 11/4/24]. See also: https://www.pavilionsformusic.co.uk/