

**Kirriemuir Square Enhancements – Public Realm Refurbishments  
Project no. ML/KIRR/01**

23 June 2015

**Update Report on Stone Carving Works**

**Five Red Granite Slabs Featuring Student's Designs and Training**

The project design team has received quotes from the invited local contractor for undertaking the carving of the 5no. granite slabs and undertake training. The prices were higher than expected for both the educational sessions with local schoolchildren and completing the engraving works of the granite slabs and above the budget available for the proposed works. A meeting was held between the design team and officers from Planning and it was felt that the contractor's quotation did not represent best value.

As a result of this meeting, two other stonemasons were approached to provide costs for engraving the five slabs and provide the student's training. Both of these quotes are of the same amount, and of a lesser cost than the original quotes received from the local contractor. Both stonemasons have trained groups of people in carving stone, including children. Currently we are investigating their past experience in working granite carving and examples of granite work will be sought from the two stonemasons.

**Engraving of Black Granite 'Timeline' and Crest**

Initial project timescales and indicative costs had been based on machine carved designs. Following the CARS Steering Group's decision to hand engrave the granite 'timeline', text, thread and crest detail, four stone masons have been approached to provide quotes for hand carving the black granite 'timeline' and also to give an indication of revised lead-in and production times to meet the request of the CARS Steering Group.

The current lowest value quote received for the revised project gives a total estimated figure of £100k including contingencies & design fees. It is important to note that there is always a risk that the returned tenders may be in excess of this figure as the Council has no control over contractors' submitted prices.

Due to the more labour intensive process involved in hand carving, the time required to engrave is almost double that of the machine alternative. The implications are that the successful contractor would not be able to start on site in autumn and consequently still be able to avoid the busy Christmas period.

The design team therefore proposes a revised onsite start date of 1 March 2016 with completion of the works in late April 2016.

A member of the design team will be in attendance at the Steering Group on request of Senior Planner (Environment and Development Plan) to answer any questions which the Steering Group may have.