



Russell Williams,
Chief Executive,
Ipswich Borough Council,
Grafton House,
Russell Road
Ipswich

19 August

Dear Russell

I am writing with regards to 'The Beat Goes On' appeal being run by the East Anglian Daily Times/Ipswich Star, supported by BBC Radio Suffolk and the TWTD independent Ipswich Town website, for a statue of former Ipswich Town player Kevin Beattie to be erected on land at Portman Road.

Kevin was regularly voted the club's greatest ever player, and there has been widespread public support for a permanent memorial to him in the town. This project has the backing of Kevin's family, with his daughter Emma sitting on the campaign committee.

On behalf of the campaign committee, I would like to ask Ipswich Borough Council to take on this project from here through to delivery.

I recognise that, in making this request, that the Committee will need to commit to you that:

- 1. the total amount required to pay for the statue, plinth and associated works will be funded entirely by the campaign; and*
- 2. the sculpture will be owned by the Council (on land that it owns).*

In relation to point 1 (above), as of August 13, 2019, we have raised approximately £76,000 of the estimated £82,500 required for the project, with MC Contracts and Ridgeons pledging to fund the plinth and associated groundwork in kind.

I recognise that this leaves a current shortfall of £6,500 that still needs to be raised to cover the complete target.

I also recognise that – subject to due diligence being completed that it would be appropriate to provide for a 10% contingency to the overall budget – increasing the 'gap' to around £14,500.

I am confident that we will achieve this target. There are a number of events planned to help with fundraising in the coming months. But – irrespective of this – around seven members of the committee have agreed to be guarantors for this project in the event of a shortfall (and would be prepared to make up any shortfall by 31st March 2020).

Our only conditions in asking you to take on this project are that:

(a) the money that we pay you will only be used to provide the sculpture, its installation and any events (to be agreed) associated with its unveiling;

(b) that our selected sculptor is used (Sean Hedges-Quinn – who designed the image of the sculpture that has been so prominent within the media). He has a proven track record of outstanding work – not just the two existing sculptures outside Ipswich Town (Sir Alf Ramsey and Sir Bobby Robson), but also the likes of Captain Mainwaring in Thetford.

We have already received a price of £80,000 (plus VAT) from Sean for the sculpture (including installation) and an indication that it should be able to be installed before the start of the 2020/21 season.

I understand that you will need to undertake due diligence before formally agreeing to take this on (if you do agree). We would be happy to provide any information you require to enable you to do this.

Fundamentally we believe this Kevin Beattie statue design will create a brilliant landmark and piece of public art that Ipswich can be proud of.

I know from our discussions that you intend to report this matter to the Council's Executive Committee next month for them to make the 'in principle' decision. I am aware that, in doing so, you will be publishing this letter.

I'd be very happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

Brad

Brad Jones

Editor, EADT and Ipswich Star

On behalf of the Kevin Beattie Statue Committee

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