

Environment & Development Services

Bailey House] Rawmarsh Road| Rotherham| S60 1TD

Tel: 01709 823815 Fax: 01709 379419 E:mail: karl.battersby@rotherham.gov.uk

Our Ref. KB/LH

Your Ref.

Please ask for: Karl Battersby

Rotherham

Metropolitan Borough Council

Where Everyone Matters

Peter Hawkrige

43 Scholes Lane Rotherham S61 2RG

3 November 2010

Dear Peter

Boston Castle Restoration Project

I am writing in response to a letter received from Mr Stan Crowther on behalf of Rotherham Civic Society regarding the Boston Castle Restoration project.

The situation regarding the project is that the Council has taken a decision to continue its efforts to renovate and restore Boston Castle but in light of the current budgetary challenges it has been necessary to consider an alternative approach that will still protect the Castle building at the same time as delivering significant savings. Discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund who are a major funder of the project, have confirmed that a revised scheme which focuses on the Castle building, whilst still providing public access and learning opportunities, is something that their committee would consider. The HLF have been most sympathetic and understanding about the Council's financial situation, and have worked with us to identify alternative options.

A number of ways forward were put to Council Members and it was agreed that whilst savings needed to be made, it was also important to ensure the Castle was protected and conserved for future generations. The revised scheme, which will enable people to go inside the Castle, learn about the history of the building and enjoy the views from the top, will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund early in 2011 in line with their application process.

We believe that given the spending challenges that lie ahead it is sensible to try to make savings where we can and to balance this against the benefits that making an investment in the Castle will have for the people of Rotherham both now and in the future.

We have continued to consult with the Friends of Boston Castle through the secretary Janet Worrall and whilst they have expressed their own frustrations about the current set backs, they have confirmed their continuing commitment to working with the Council and our shared objective of securing the future of Castle.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the Council remains committed to doing everything possible within its resources to secure the future of Boston Castle.

Yours sincerely

Karl Battersby Strategic Director
Environment and Development Services