



An artist's impression of a Peter Anson memorial proposed for Macduff's Union Row. The net and drifter, fabricated in steel, would be 7.5 feet high.

Vandalism threat to Anson sculpture bid

BY KEVIN DUGUID

A STRIKING memorial to famous marine artist and writer Peter Anson could be erected in Macduff.

But there worries that wind and vandals could damage the proposed design of a fishing boat silhouette on top of a steel net.

Plans to construct the sculpture in Macduff in memory of Anson, who lived part of his life in the coastal town, have been revealed by the Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association chairman Stanley Bruce.

The steel design is of a one metre long drifter on top of a triangular steel net. Inside the net, made from 16mm solid round steel bars, there would be six or seven steel herring.

It was proposed at the Banff and Macduff Community Council meeting last Wednesday that the Peter Anson drifter sculpture could be placed at the water's edge at Union Row, Macduff.

An anchor, which is the property of the Banffshire Maritime Heritage Group would also be placed beside the sculpture.

Members at the meeting, which took place at Duff House, were asked by vice-chairman of the Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association, Isabel Smollett, to give the project their backing.

The sculpture would need planning permission if the association decided

to go ahead.

Mrs Smollett gave members details and diagrams of the sculpture in the absence of Mr Bruce, who came up with the idea and the design.

But although members supported the project in principle, there were concerns about the practicality of the 2.3 metre high 1.2 metre wide steel structure.

It was feared that its height would be susceptible to strong winds, and that the latticed net could be climbed by individuals intent on vandalising the drifter on top.

Mrs Smollett, who is also a member of the community council, said: "This was a suggestion made by Stanley Bruce several weeks ago. He suggested we have some sort of memorial to Peter Anson. He asked me about support from the community council.

"Speaking personally I think it's a great idea. I think, in fact, that it might encourage other sculptures to be placed around. As it would be permanent, it would require planning permission."

Community council chairman Ian Page was concerned about the location of the sculpture. He said: "I think the idea is great. But I have my con-

cerns about the design. I think putting something like that there that has a fair bit of wind coming in would blow it over."

Troup District Councillor Sydney Mair also had concerns about the design. He added: "The principle and everything's good. But it would be an attraction for someone to go by and climb up. It will attract people to get a hold of the boat."

Various companies have agreed to contribute to the construction of the sculpture, according to a design document produced by Mr Bruce, handed over to members at Wednesday's meeting.

Funding is also being sought for the sculpture. Banff and Macduff Towns Co-ordinator Mike Roy said: "So many people have volunteered to do this for nothing. I think it's something we should really encourage."

The community council backed the sculpture in principle, but agreed to go back to Mr Bruce to voice their concerns.

In 1938, Anson settled on the Moray coast, first at Portsoy, then at Macduff, where he was to stay for more than 14 years, painting, writing and documenting the work of fisher folk.

He left Macduff in 1952, and died at Nunraw Abbey, near Edinburgh, in 1975.