

# Press Release

20 February 2012

## Chartist Mural public consultation

Newport City Council is calling for the public to have their say on the preferred option to preserve the visual memory of the Chartist Mural near John Frost Square.

The mural, which was erected in 1978, will unfortunately be lost in the demolition phase when the planned city centre shopping development begins. Due to the nature of its original construction, it is impossible to preserve in its current form.

The council is committed to keeping the essence of the mural in Newport for generations to come to enjoy, and as such has identified four practical options to ensure its visual memory survives with a tangible presence.

### Option 1

To photograph and replicate the mural on a similar scale on ceramic tiles, just a few yards from its current home, in the stairwell of Central Library. This option would include all of the mural's original images and bring back those that have already been lost.

### Option 2

To commission the son of the original artist to recreate a section of the mural, such as the iconic scene outside Westgate Hotel. This would also be suitable for the Central Library stairwell.

### Option 3

To create a reinterpretation of the original mural at another location in the city centre.

### Option 4

To create an alternative chartist themed work of art somewhere else in the city.

These options have been made available to the city after the council negotiated with the family of the original artist for use of the

copyright of the design. Through this process the council has been able to ensure that the legacy of this artwork is not lost, and that the modern transformation planned for the city centre will still have a place for the design.

With no feasible technical or financial option to save the original mosaic, and a number of innovative options available, the council is asking for the public to get in touch with their preferred option. A model of Option 1 will be available to view on Friday 24 - Saturday 25 February in Newport Central Library from 11am – 3pm.

For more information visit the council's [Have Your Say](#) web page.

The public can contact the council with their preferred option for two weeks from Monday 20 February via [public.relations@newport.gov.uk](mailto:public.relations@newport.gov.uk) or by calling 01633 656656.

Staff will be on hand in all of Newport's libraries to anyone needing assistance using the internet to access council services.

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