



KCACR Mobile Ring Proposal

Background

In February 2014, the Reverend David Cawley offered to donate to the Association a ring of 6 small bells that he had purchased. In April 2014, this offer was formally accepted with grateful thanks.

Details of the bells are as follows:

<u>Bell</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Founder</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Treble	11 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	A	0-2-0	Taylors	2006	Cast for stock
2	12 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	G	0-2-3	Taylors	2008	Cast for Stockton (experimental)
3	12 $\frac{15}{16}$ "	F	0-1-27	Taylors	2008	Cast for Stockton (experimental)
4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	E	0-2-6	Taylors	2009	Cast for York Minster (came out flat)
5	14	D	0-2-10	Taylors	1896	Ex-Nottingham, St Catherine
Tenor	15 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	C	0-2-21	Taylors	1896	Ex-Nottingham, St Catherine

If the bells were to be purchased new from Taylor's, based on June 2014 pricing, they would cost around £13,500.





The complete ring, Treble to the left

A short video of them being 'rung' by hand using a clapper can be viewed here:

https://youtu.be/LKWxwOU_58s

It was suggested by David that, given their weight, they would be most suitable if used in a mobile ring of some kind rather than installed in a tower somewhere. The General Committee at the time agreed, and quotes for the work & materials required were sought from Taylor's and Matthew Higby.

At this point we also got in touch with Phil Gay of the Lichfield Diocesan Guild who had a lot of experience in setting up the Lichfield Diocesan Mobile Belfry, and asked for his views and advice on what we were planning. He was very helpful and very positive about the project, and made some suggestions which we have taken on board – the primary one being that the mobile ring will need a Management Team to deal with the day-to-day operations.

Over the course of a few General Committee meetings, various things surrounding the possible mini ring were discussed – costs, usage, transport, storage to name a few. Some draft/rough drawings of what the mobile ring could look like were provided by Bell Restoration Officer Brian Butcher, and these are shown below:

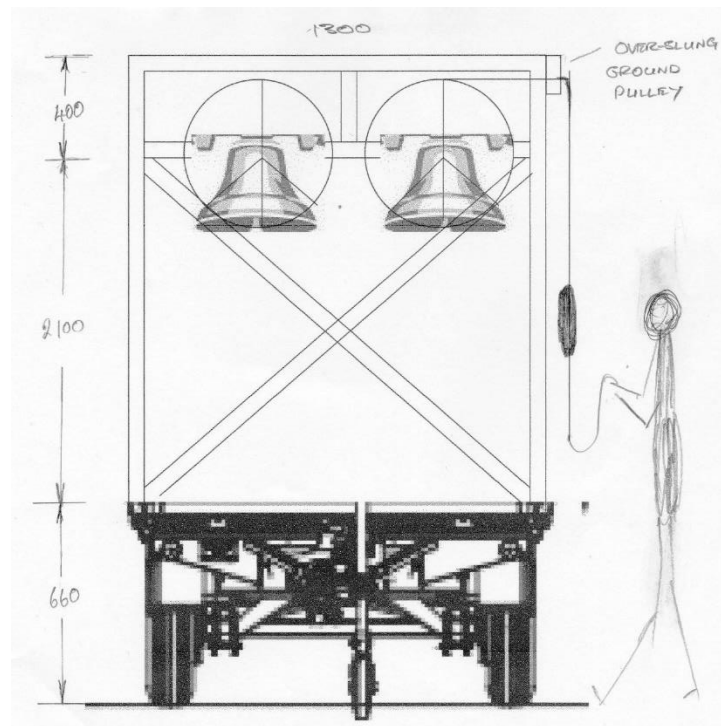


Fig. 1 – View from the rear of the mobile ring

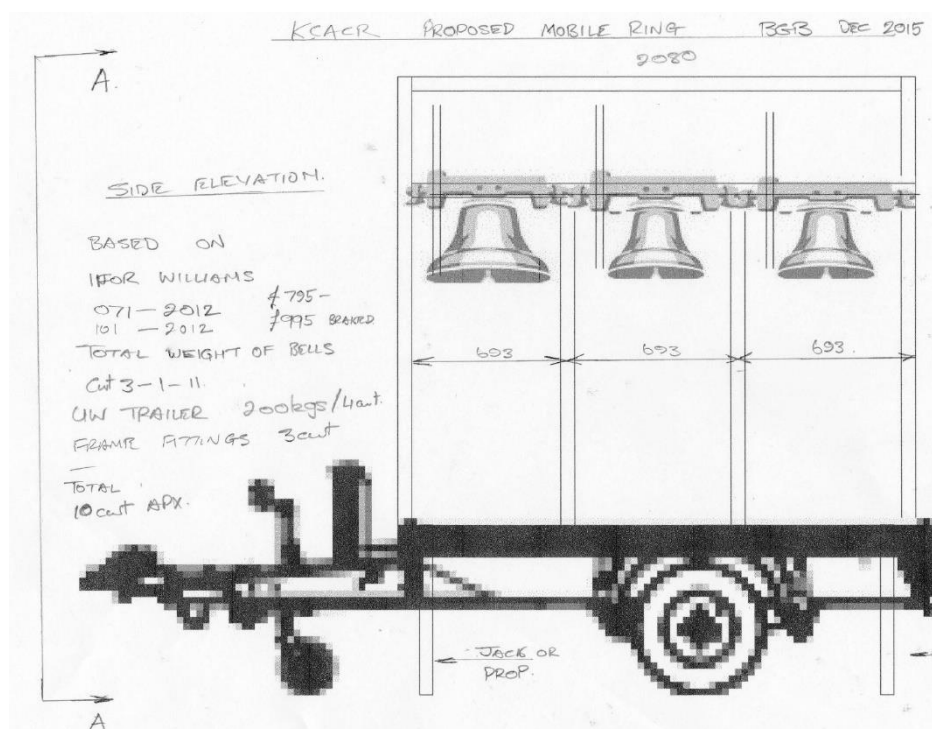
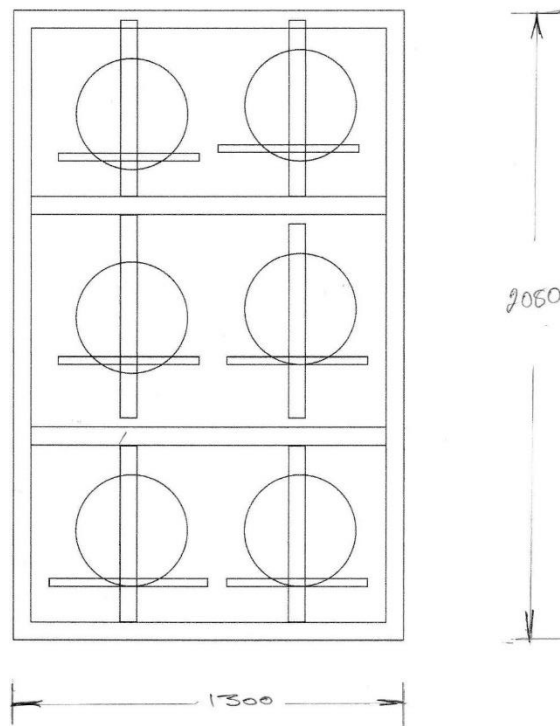


Fig. 2 – View from the side of the mobile ring



PLAN

Fig. 3 – Plan of the frame containing the bells

The idea is to build the mobile ring onto a small trailer which can then be towed by any reasonably-sized car. There would be no work required to erect the ring when it arrived at its destination either – the ropes would simply be dropped over the sides of the trailer and the bells rung from there. This would be the first mobile ring to be able to offer this capability, and not require a specialist team to build it for each event.

In terms of storage, we have had an offer of a location to store the mobile ring in the Maidstone area of the County which will make it central and will not cost the Association any money.

Initial figures from Taylor's to complete the work in full came in at around £12,000 – a price deemed to be too high. Approximate figures from Matthew Higby came in at around £500 per bell for fittings only, so around £3,000 total, and we could get the metalwork made locally at a cost of around £2,000. The other cost would be a trailer to build the framework onto, at an approximate cost of another £2,000. This brought the cost of the project to around £7,000 at this stage.

Since then, we have had an offer of the metalwork at zero cost – thus saving the project around £2,000. The figure of £5,000 is now all that is sought to get the mobile ring built & ready to go.

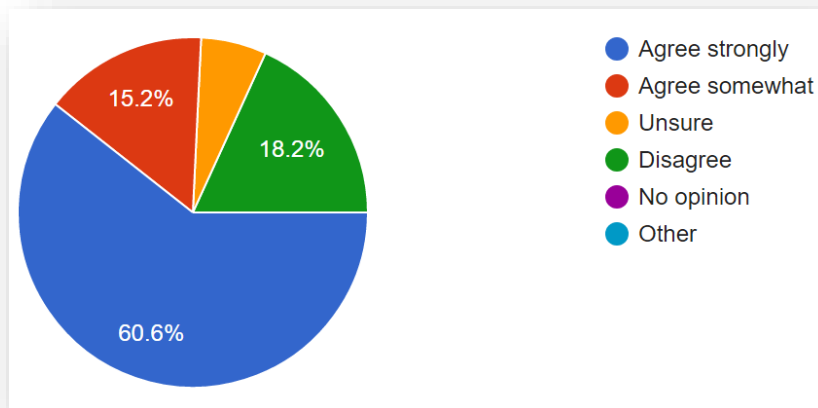
Where are we today?

Following a survey carried out via the KCACR website at the end of 2016 and after further discussion at the General Committee Meeting on 25th February 2017 we have decided to move forward with the proposal to build a mobile ring for the Association.

Survey Results



75.8% of respondents thought that a mobile ring was a good idea:



Respondents provided several ways in which they thought the mobile ring would be used, including:



Respondents also felt they would have a use for the ring at least once and up to 3-4 times per year.

In addition to the above ways the mobile ring could be used, another innovative idea was put forward recently at the General Committee meeting – why not offer the mobile ring out on hire to wedding venues throughout the County? There are lots of places where weddings can take



place these days, but they don't have bells – country houses, castles, registry offices etc. Given just how easy it would be to take the mobile ring to such venues and have it ready-to-ring, this has been seen as a very interesting and potentially quite profitable source of income.

Proposal

The General Committee would like to get the project moving as soon as possible. To that end, we are now proposing to do the following:

- Setup a Management Committee
There are already 3 members of the General Committee who are willing to be part of this, other members will be sought as required.
- Fund the build of the Mobile Ring
The Management Committee would like to effectively 'borrow' the sum of £5,000 from the Association to complete the project. Once the mobile ring is complete, we will 'repay' the money by means of fundraising and any income from hiring the mobile ring out.
- Prepare documentation/promotional material
The Management Committee would draw up hire agreements, design & prepare promotional material to go out with the mobile ring and arrange for either the KCACR website to be updated with a section on the ring or another website built for it.

We hope you will support us in this exciting project for the Association!