

Council to rip out new £24,000 bollards

OUTCRY AT DORNOCH OVER THE USE OF GRANITE

Highland Council is to rip out new stone bollards and a seat installed for around £24,000 after they sparked an outcry at Dornoch, noted for its honey-coloured sandstone.

Locals were horrified at the ugliness of the large grey granite structures when they appeared round the old Mercat Cross beside the cathedral, and very soon Historic Scotland served a "stop" notice on council.

The work was to enhance the area around the cross, but Historic Scotland had not authorised the work and did not know it was being done.

Local museum curator Peter Wils said: "Its the sort of thing you would put up in front of an airport to stop terrorists trying to ram a car through the front door."

Council representatives met with furious locals on Thursday and agreed the bollards and seat will be removed. A council spokesman said: "We fully accept the comments made by the local people about the design of the

environmental works and have agreed the bollards and street furniture will be removed as soon as possible.

"We are confident we can find a new home for the installations at another location in Highland."

He did not have an estimate of the cost of the replacement installations.

Chris Ferne, chairman of the Dornoch Area Community Interest Co, said he was happy the council had seen sense. He said the street furniture, made from stone all the way from China, was totally at odds with the town's beautiful sandstone.

Mr Ferne said: "The priority is the removal of all granite structures."

Mr Ferne does not think it appropriate for the granite furniture to be anywhere in the Highlands.