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The historic bandstand at Ammanford Park remains covered in scaffolding while Cadw determine whether to allow renovation work to be carried out. A petition has been launched urging for work to get started as it is becoming an eyesore, campaigners claim.

Picture: Paul Kennedy

Calls are made for work to begin on listed bandstand

CALLS are being made for work to begin on restoring a listed bandstand in the heart of Ammanford.

Plans to remove asbestos tiles from the roof and repair and restore decorative works at the attraction at Ammanford Park were approved back in March, but no work can start until heritage body Cadw is informed of the methods

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and practices that will be used.

Carmarthenshire Council approved the plans - which it lodged with itself - in March and local contractor TRJ is ready to get started.

The delay has now seen a petition launched in the town calling for the work

to get underway at the park at the end of Iscennen Road as the bandstand has become an eyesore, it is claimed. It is covered in a tower of scaffolding.

Resident Paul Kennedy is behind the campaign. He said: "The bandstand is a mess, surrounded by scaffolding and totally out of action in the midst of well-kept greens and beautifully-planted flower beds. It lowers the tone of the whole space."

"This petition is to show the town's desire to have it made safe, restored and opened again for use."

Mr Kennedy added: "It's time to show how important this bandstand is, not just for the look of the park, but the opportunities it offers in having music and performances in a public space instead of a derelict structure left to rot until it's condemned."

"All I want is for the plans that have been made and approved to be accepted and acted upon for the greater good of the Ammanford area."

Cadw confirmed it had received the plans and needs to approve the methods by which work will be carried out but has no issue with the plans.

Carmarthenshire Council's head of property Jonathan Fearn said: "Management of Ammanford Park has transferred to Ammanford Town Council as part of the County Council's Asset Transfer Programme."

"As part of the arrangement, the county council has committed to repairing the bandstand but, as a listed building, the renovation requires Cadw approval. We are currently awaiting the required consents to enable work to start."

"Local contractor TRJ Ltd was appointed in June 2018 and submitted an application for listed building consent in August 2018."

"While approved in March, this was subject to a number of conditions, which Cadw has yet to approve."

"TRJ has appointed a specialist consultant to provide the required information, which was provided to Cadw in August."

"We are pushing for early resolution of the outstanding conditions so that work can start. TRJ has committed to completing the renovation within nine weeks of approval being granted."