

ARTIST BRIEF

Picket Twenty Public Art Trail – Public Art Commission

Vision

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) wish to commission a public art trail for the new community development at Picket Twenty in Andover. The trail should celebrate movement and be innovative and interactive by design. The trail should encourage children and adults to explore and engage with their surroundings and should culminate with a main piece of kinetic sculpture to be sited at the Urban Park. Whilst Picket Twenty is a development of housing including a school, shop and nursery, the artworks should be sympathetic to the important countryside and environment that surround Picket Twenty.

Aims & Objectives

- To produce an art trail of high quality design that is a suitable size and scale for the chosen site(s)
- To produce an art trail that is innovative and bespoke
- To enable Picket Twenty residents and the local community to engage with the process of creating public art.
- To deliver a project that demonstrates good practice in terms of community engagement and the commissioning process that is in line with the TVBC Public Art Strategy

Background



Two public artworks have already been commissioned in partnership with Persimmon Homes for the Picket Twenty development site in Andover in 2011.

These include the Stick Kid Bridge (pictured above) and the Bus route underpass Mural.

The Stick Kid Bridge was commissioned of metal worker John Mills in 2011, to adorn a pedestrian bridge linking the development to the route towards the town centre. The Bus-route underpass mural was created by David Dixon 2011.

The development of housing here is now complete and residents have been living in the area for over 5 years. The mix of housing includes homes which are provided by Housing Associations, the Ministry of Defence as well as privately owned homes.

The Urban Park is located to the north of the Picket Twenty development and covers over 25 hectares. The park includes 7 full size football pitches, a cricket square and a perimeter surfaced route measuring 1 mile, which is excellent for running, dog walking and is a great place for cycling.

Harewood Common comprises of nearly 10 Hectares of chalk grassland rich in wildlife. It provides a refreshing contrast to the close mown landscape of the Urban Park. The site is managed with wildlife at its heart, whilst providing access for the public. Originally an agricultural field, Harewood Common backs onto the mature woodland at Harewood Forest. Its past management as a hay meadow makes it an ideal place to encourage wildlife to thrive.

Persimmon Homes are also building another 500+ homes at the neighbouring Picket Twenty Extension. This part of the development comes with its own public art commission that will commission a heritage interpretation scheme that will include a creative engagement project, bespoke artworks and interpretation, and a learning and education pack. The theme is focused on the high value heritage identified as 'The presence of buried archaeological remains, in particular relating to probable prehistoric barrow cemetery within the centre of the site. The remains are expected to be relatively well preserved and are likely to be of at least regional importance.'

Artist's Roles & Responsibilities

The chosen artist will be responsible for:

- The design, fabrication and installation of the art work
- Providing detailed working drawings and designs for the commissioner
- Supplying the relevant information and drawings required for any appropriate planning permissions in partnership with TVBC
- Effectively managing the available budget with the steering group
- Attending regular meetings with the Arts Officer and steering group, to provide updates for TVBC officers and Councillors on progress, timescales and budget
- Delivery of a programme of community engagement
- Providing a full maintenance schedule and instructions
- Supplying information required for press releases and promotion

The artist will hold and provide evidence of relevant public liability insurance and professional indemnity insurance, and take responsible for any third party contractors.

Community Engagement

In line with our Public Art Strategy we aim that all our public art projects involve community consultation and participation to contribute towards the collection and development of ideas and artworks. Our aim through this process is that residents and local stakeholders are fully involved in the creation of their environments and have a sense of ownership over the places in which they live.

We anticipate that the chosen artist will devise a programme of consultation events and activities to engage with the range of people and stakeholders around this site. Key people and partners to involve include:

- Persimmon Homes
- Pilgrim's Cross School
- Winton Secondary School
- Egg Day Nursery
- Picket Twenty Community Association and Community Centre
- Test Valley Borough Council – Elected Members for Andover Downlands Ward include Cllr Christopher Donnelly and Councillor Nick Lodge
- Hampshire County Councillors: Cllr Andrew Gibson and Cllr Kirsty North

The Site

Part of the engagement process will be to work with communities to decide on appropriate sites for elements of the trail. Initial key suggestions include:

- Urban Park, Sports Pavilion and MUGA
- Paths leading to Ladies Walk and Stick Kid Bridge
- Pilgrims Cross School
- Community Centre
- Egg Nursery
- Harewood Common
- Open Space by playground, Picket Twenty Way
- Playground, Quicksilver Way

Budget

This commission is funded through Section 106 contributions for public art from Persimmon and project managed by TVBC.

£69,000 is available to cover the full commission and it should be noted that this includes:

- Artist time for design and drawings
- Community events and engagement
- Meetings with steering group and relevant agencies
- Fabrication, transport and installation
- Planning application fees and other fees that may be required.

Maintenance

A budget has been allocated from the developer for future maintenance. This is separate to this commission fee. The chosen artist will be expected to provide a full maintenance manual on completion of installation with clear guidelines as to the best way to maintain the artwork and any specialist treatment/knowledge that is necessary. The artist should also indicate the anticipated life span of the work and any decommissioning procedures that should be applied.

Schedule

Description	Date
Deadline for applications	Monday 14 September
Shortlisting	October
Artist Interviews	October/November
Notify preferred artist	November
Reports to Council management boards and Cabinet to draw down funds	November/December
Contract artists and start commission	January 2021
Project completion	December 2021

How To Apply

Your application should be submitted no later than Monday 14 September to include:

- A proposal outlining your approach to the commission and initial responses to the brief. Max 3 A4 pages, 6 sides.
- A current CV and Artist's statement of relevant work and commissions. Max 2 A4 pages, 4 sides.
- 4 examples of previous relevant projects, including images. Max 3 A4 pages, 6 sides.

You must demonstrate the following in your expression of interest:

- A track record in commissions for the public realm
- Experience of community engagement within public art projects
- Experience of working within a creative team
- Evidence of the ability to produce high quality works of art
- A clear understanding of the challenges and sensitivities of the project

Applications and enquiries should be sent by email to:
Faye Perkins, Arts Officer, fperkins@testvalley.gov.uk

Equal Opportunities

Test Valley Borough Council is committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities in employment and service provision, eliminating discrimination, and encouraging diversity amongst the workforce. A full copy of our equal opportunities policy is attached.

Linked documents

1. TVBC Public Art Strategy
<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/communityandleisure/artsandculture/publicart/public-art-strategy/>
2. Equal Opportunities Policy
<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/corporatedirection/equality---diversity/equalities/>
3. Picket Twenty Information
<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/communityandleisure/my-local-area-new/andover-downlands/picket-twenty>