

Andover Public Art Programme

Report of the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. That £27,000 be added to the Capital Programme for on-site public art in respect of the public art commission for Picket Piece in Andover, to be fully funded by Section 106 developer contributions.
2. To award the contract for Picket Piece to Svetlana Kondakova.
3. That £69,000 be added to the Capital Programme for on-site public art in respect of the public art commission for Picket Twenty in Andover, to be fully funded by Section 106 developer contributions.
4. To award the contract for Picket Twenty to Tim Ward of Circling the Square.
5. That £50,000 be allocated from Section 106 contributions for off-site public art in respect of the public art programme for Andover Town Centre.

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- Test Valley Borough Council secured contributions for on-site public art at Picket Piece and Picket Twenty through Section 106 agreements. The report sets out the procurement procedure that has been undertaken to select an artist to carry out the commission for each project, and requests authority to release sufficient funds to deliver the projects and award the contracts to the selected artists.
- Contributions for off-site public art were also secured through section 106 agreements for East Anton. The report sets out the proposals for the project this will support in Andover town centre and requests authority to release sufficient funds to deliver the projects in this financial year.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Test Valley Borough Council secured contributions for on-site public art through section 106 agreements, £27,000 for Picket Piece, and £69,000 for Picket Twenty.
- 1.2 The report sets out the procurement procedure that has been undertaken to select the artists to carry out these commissions, and requests authority to release sufficient funds to deliver the projects and award the contracts to the selected artists.

- 1.3 Test Valley Borough Council have also secured contributions for off-site public art through section 106 agreements for East Anton. This report also sets out the proposals for the public art programme in Andover Town Centre using £50,000 of this contribution. The commissions have been developed following industry best practice and in accordance with the TVBC Public Art Strategy.
- 1.4 The town centre commission has been proposed to support the enhancement of the Town Mills development as part of the regeneration programme for Andover and following the launch of the Andover Masterplan last year.

2 Commissioning Approach Picket Piece and Picket Twenty

- 2.1 In August 2020 the Public Art Commission briefs for Picket Piece and Picket Twenty were advertised locally, regionally and nationally through creative arts and public art organisations and networks. Sixteen applications were received for Picket Piece and Twelve for Picket Twenty.
- 2.2 Using specific criteria drawn up to meet the objectives of the briefs the proposals were shortlisted to six for each project. These 6 proposals were then considered in detail by the commissioning panel on each group.
- 2.3 The commissioning panels are made up of stakeholders from the community including residents and local organisations as detailed here. Other officers and stakeholders will be consulted at relevant points in the projects.

Picket Piece	Picket Twenty
Arts Officer	Arts Officer
Community Development Officer	Community Development Officer
Cllr Lodge	Sports Development Officer
Chair of Residents Association	Cllr Donnelly
Local residents x2	Local resident
	Teacher from Pilgrims Cross
	Member of Community Centre

- 2.4 The steering groups each held interviews for three or four candidates who were invited to present their proposals at interview in December and January.
- 2.5 Based on the evaluation criteria and the overall quality of the presentations and proposals, the panels made their decisions to award the commission for Picket Piece to Svetlana Kondakova and for Picket Twenty to Tim Ward of Circling the Square, subject to Cabinet and Council approval.
- 2.6 Svetlana is an Edinburgh based artist who creates sculptures, murals, installations, paintings and mixed media artworks primarily for the public realm. She has a track record in delivering public art for other local authorities and organisations.
- 2.7 Svetlana proposes to create a sculpture where every element will be designed with the help of the community, using their own inputs and inspiration for its location, shape, colour and detail. There will be a programme of six consultations and workshops and two online campaigns. They would include model making and sculpting and invite contributions through photography and drawing.

- 2.8 Tim Ward designs and implements sculptures, public art and environmental projects combining a variety of different mediums; steel, lighting, glass, stone, landscape. Based in Essex he has delivered multiple commissions across the UK including trails, heritage projects, functional signage and seating as well as impressive landmark sculptures.
- 2.9 Tim proposes a participatory programme with a wide range of stakeholders to develop designs and gather inspiration for the interactive trail and sculpture. These would include workshops, consultations meetings and public open days. Both projects are keen to set up social media channels to further engage with residents and stakeholders at this time.

3 Andover Town Centre Programme

- 3.1 The S106 agreement for East Anton states that this figure for off-site public art is to contribute, 'towards the design and construction of an item or items of public art, craft or decoration, to be located within Andover, but outside the Site.'
- 3.2 It is proposed to provide a number of projects through this contribution. The continuation of Four Fun Fridays, the commissioning of a new Art Wall at Riverside Park and the update of the Andover Poetry Trail.
- 3.3 It is also proposed to continue to fund our ambitions for temporary public art initiatives that engage communities within the town centre, in line with the Public Art Strategy. Four Fun Fridays 2021 will be the sixth year the event has taken place and it now has a loyal audience and following of participants. Four Fun Fridays is a combination of creative arts workshops, installations, street theatre, street shows, trails and tours encouraging families to participate in arts in the town centre. This year it is intended to explore including other town locations such as Pocket Park and Riverside Park to programme activity for the events.
- 3.4 Four Fun Fridays budget is £10,000
- 3.5 Following on from the Community Engagement project for Riverside Park that is aiming to gather views and opinions of residents and stakeholders as to the style and type of artwork they would like to see in this location, the feedback and report findings will be used to inform the creation of a new commission of an Art Wall at Riverside Park. The Art Wall will be located in front of the brick wall of Wilkos and face out to the park and riverside area.
- 3.6 The Art Wall budget is £20,000
- 3.7 The Poetry in Motion Trail was first commissioned in 1998 and is a valued part of the town which starts its journey just outside the Town Mills. The 40 poems can be located on buildings, walls, in the pathway and on set stones along the route that leads from this point in the town centre along Riverside Walk towards Asda and Rooksbury Mill nature reserve.

The first can be found on the Town Mills building and the subsequent numbers 2-6 are floor plaques along the pathway alongside the river outside the Town Mills. The plan is to keep the plaques and integrate them into the new groundworks.

It is timely to look at a relaunch of the Poetry Trail. The plaques are numbered and of the original 40, 7 are unable to be located. A new project will:

- Create a poetry festival, linked to National Poetry Day (October), to engage communities with their natural surroundings. The original trail was designed to capture the spirit and beauty of the Test Valley in verse
- Commission a poet to work with schools and community groups to learn about poetry and create new poems for the missing areas along the trail
- Create a new printed and virtual trail map to encourage people to further explore the riverside through Andover and towards the nature reserve.
- Hold an exhibition of new poetry within the town centre
- Hold poetry events

3.8 The Poetry in Motion budget is £20,000 to include funds towards project work and installing new poetry artwork along the trail.

4 Schedule

For the public art commissions at Picket Piece and Picket Twenty to be truly successful it is proposed to start by talking with the community and residents at both sites, and developing ideas through workshops and community engagement activities. It is proposed to start the projects as soon as government restrictions allow this year, and then allowing up to a year for the projects to reach completion and artwork be installed.

For the Andover Town Centre programme the Four Fun Friday's projects take place in August each year. The Art Wall and Poetry Trail projects will commence in the autumn following the results and analysis of the community engagement project and report due in July 2021.

5 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

The work undertaken through the public art programme directly delivers priorities for Test Valley from the Corporate Plan as detailed below. In creating projects where current and future generations of communities can get involved with what happens in their neighbourhoods. Where they are an integral part of creating and enhancing their own spaces making them feel empowered and proud of where they live and work.

The artist briefs asks for community engagement to be at the core of how artists are developing their ideas and final work. These projects are focused on how residents can enhance and enjoy their surroundings of the new development.

The town centre programme supports the council's ambitions for regeneration and the Masterplan for Andover. It provides opportunities to create attractive, vibrant and prosperous places by commissioning new and relevant artworks.

Communities to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths

Building upon our positive track record of working with communities. We will do this by harnessing the strengths that exist within communities, so that local people are able to contribute and play an active role.

People to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations

Creating communities that have the infrastructure and accessibility to meet the needs of a changing and growing population. Establishing attractive, sustainable and vibrant communities for people to live, work and enjoy.

Growing the potential of the local environment for current and future generations

Enhancing the quality of our public realm to improve the local environment, so that these are attractive spaces and places that people can enjoy and spend time.

Growing the potential of Town Centres to adapt and be attractive, vibrant and prosperous places

Taking this once in a generation opportunity to respond to the changing face of the High Street. Future proofing our town centres to be accessible places where people live, shop, work and spend their leisure time.

Enhancing public realm and improving the appearance and environment of our town centres

6 Consultations/Communications

The steering groups have been created by officers, members and individuals with a close or direct responsibility to the sites. The briefs have been developed in consultation with these professionals and each have taken part in the shortlisting phase and been given the opportunity to talk to the artist through the interviews.

As with each public art commission, information is shared about the project briefs with portfolio holders and relevant council members as well as seeking legal advice when required.

New steering groups for the town centre projects will be created, as well as working closely with the Andover Vision and the Town Mills members groups.

7 Options

- a) To approve the proposal
- b) To do nothing

8 Option Appraisal

To authorise the Arts Officer to draw down the funding from S106 contributions and to contract the artists to support TVBC to create projects where communities can get involved in what happens in their neighbourhoods. It empowers current and future generations to create and enhance their own spaces feeling proud of where they live and work.

If the public art is not commissioned the S106 contributions will need to be repaid to the developer.

9 Risk Management

A risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the Council's risk management process and the existing risk controls in place mean that no significant risks (red or amber) have been identified.

10 Resource Implications

All costs for the development of the artwork, artist fees and fabrication for Picket Piece and Picket Twenty are include in the commission fees. There are separate contributions for public art maintenance for each of these sites.

11 Legal Implications

Contracts will be drawn up with commissioned artists prior to commencement. All / any necessary consents with landowners (where it is not this Council) will also be formally captured by legal agreement in advance of commencement.

12 Equality Issues

An EQIA has been completed. The key impacts are the enhancement of the two areas of Picket Piece and Picket Twenty with new public art works consisting of a sculpture and art trail. Public expectation with regard to the projects needs to be carefully managed through community engagement and consultation throughout the development of the artworks, and positive marketing.

Groups particularly affected are local residents. General public, local businesses and users of the sites.

There is no action required as a result of the EQIA.

13 An EQIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

14 Other Issues

14.1 Community Safety - none

14.2 Environmental Health Issues - none

14.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate

The considerations for a sustainable public art project will be managed by the steering group created for each project. They will consider:

- The artists practice and work including previous commissions, proposed concepts and design work.
- The level and style of community engagement and how well they include the stakeholders for the specific project
- The environment and unique considerations relating to resources, materials proposed and methods of fabricating work.
- The site, context and impact.

14.4 Property Issues

Where identified and necessary, for example where TVBC do not own or manage land, the Arts Officer will obtain appropriate legal agreements and permissions to site and install public artworks.

14.5 Wards/Communities Affected

Picket Piece: Andover Downlands Ward

Picket Twenty: Andover Downlands Ward

Town Centre: Andover St Marys Ward and Andover Winton Ward

15 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

15.1 The commissioning panels have undertaken a rigorous commissioning process.

15.2 It is recommended to Council that the commission for Picket Piece will be awarded to Svetlana Kondakova based on strength of her proposal and presentation in relation to the aims and ambitions as set out in the brief.

15.3 And that the Commission for Picket Twenty will be awarded to Tim Ward of Circling the Square based on the strength of his proposal and presentation and impressive portfolio of previous commissions.

15.4 It is recommended to Council that authorisation is given to draw down the Section 106 on-site contributions to enable these projects to proceed and that the contracts be awarded.

15.5 It is recommended to Council that authorisation is given to draw down the Section 106 off-site contributions to enable the Andover Town Centre projects to proceed and that the new projects can continue with momentum and community engagement.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1– Artist Brief for Picket Piece 2 – Application from Svetlana Kondakova related to PP 3- Artist Brief for Picket Twenty 4 – Application from Tim Ward related to P20	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Community and Leisure) Councillor I Jeffrey			
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	10 March 2021