

REPORT TITLE: ARTS PROGRAMME UPDATE

8 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Angela Clear, Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing

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WARD(S): DENMEAD / SOUTHWICK AND WICKHAM / WATERLOO / STAKES ROAD

PURPOSE

This report recaps the progress made on the West of Waterlooville public art programme and sets out a plan for future delivery of the programme across the major development area during the remainder of the development period.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Forum notes:

1. The progress made in bringing forward the public art programme for the West of Waterlooville MDA during the period prior to September 2020.
2. The desire to complete the Gateway installation with an alternative tree species.
3. The need to review and reset the remaining programme, including the boating lake project due to concerns about the escalating cost.
4. The importance of involving the parish council in these decisions.
5. The ongoing work to identify a lead officer within the council and appropriate resources to be responsible for delivering the art programme.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

#### 1.1 Living Well

- 1.2 Delivery of the arts programme at Waterlooville will contribute towards objectives to create attractive and well-used public facilities and green spaces with space for relaxation and play, and also a wide range of physical and cultural activities for all ages and abilities.

### 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 All contributions due from the developer Taylor Wimpey have been received by Winchester City Council and Havant Borough Council, as per the Section 106 agreement.
- 2.2 The first of five contributions from Grainger, each of £100k, has been received by Winchester City Council as per the Section 106 agreement. Further contributions from Grainger are due prior to the occupation of 500, 1000, 1500 and 2000 dwellings. No contributions are payable to Havant Borough Council under the agreement.
- 2.3 The sum remaining to be spent on the arts programme currently stands at £398,930.
- 2.4 With the agreement of the Arts Advisory Panel, Grainger has incurred costs totalling £79,709 on further works related to the gateway and boating lake projects which will be offset against the remainder of Grainger's arts contribution obligations.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A number of matters relating to the Section 106 agreement are mentioned in the report.
- 3.2 All arts installations will be procured in accordance with the council's Procurement and Contract Management Strategy and the council's Contract Procedure Rules.

### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Although the level of resource and skill set originally in place when this arts project was conceived is no longer available, Council on 23 February 2022 approved the revenue budget for 2022/23 (CAB3335) which included enhanced resource to lead work on the council's cultural agenda across the district. The main purpose of this regraded post is to focus on development of the cultural sector including the design, development and delivery of a cultural strategy for the district. However, given the size and scope of the West of Waterlooville arts programme, it is suggested that, whilst this new post can

assist with advice and guidance concerning its delivery, there will be a requirement for a dedicated resource to implement the programme.

- 4.2 It is estimated that programme implementation will require approximately two days per week in the initial stages and officers are considering how this resources might be found.

## 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any art installations within the development are likely to be located within the public open space or other public realm, so would become the property of whichever organisation adopts the area in question. For any future installations, this will need to be negotiated at an early stage as part of the project planning and feasibility.

## 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 A significant resident and stakeholder engagement exercise was undertaken to help inform the projects that formed the arts programme. Further engagement will be required in the event that any changes or additions are required.
- 6.2 The approach set out in this report has evolved following discussions involving local ward members who were part of the Arts Advisory Panel and with representatives from Grainger.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Winchester City Council has declared a climate emergency and in December 2019 adopted a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, committing it to reaching carbon neutrality by 2024 and aiming to make the entire district carbon neutral by 2030.
- 7.2 A motion to Havant Borough Council that acknowledged climate change and committed to addressing this through improving its own systems, supporting residents and businesses in positive change and through addressing biodiversity in its planning processes. The council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 was adopted in September 2021.
- 7.3 All possible efforts will be made to ensure that any art installations are procured, sourced and manufactured sustainably,

## 8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 None.

## 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 None required.

## 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<u>Financial Exposure</u> Programme delivery cost exceeds the budget.	Careful budget management and review.	Potential to reset the programme and consider alternative options.
<u>Innovation</u> The proposed Berewood commissions are unique, which has made costing and planning more difficult than a more traditional piece of art (e.g. a statue).	Regular review of proposals to ensure viability.	Potential to reset the programme and consider alternative options.
<u>Reputation</u> There is always a risk that public art will not be liked and this can have an impact on the Council, the developers and the artists.	Continued focus on engagement/consultation with the local community.	Residents feel included in the process and 'own' the results.
<u>Achievement of outcome</u> Complicated and expensive projects could use up a disproportionate amount of the available funding and limit the ability to deliver a programme across the entire development.	Regular review of proposals to ensure viability.	Potential to reset the programme and consider alternative options.
<u>Property</u> Some arts commissions are designed for public interaction and there is a risk to public safety if not properly constructed and maintained.	Health and safety advice was taken (e.g. RoSPA assessment of boat pond designs).  Proof of public liability insurance is required before issuing any purchase orders for works.  A regular inspection and maintenance regime will be put in place on	

	completion.	
<u>Community Support</u> The community has grown and changed over the course of development. It is important to keep engaging in order to avoid accusations that the public art is not what is wanted on the site.	A programme of engagement took place around the earlier proposals. Further consultation to take place on the final art work.	Newlands Parish Council can be an active partner in the arts programme development and delivery.
<u>Timescales</u> The commissions for the Grainger site are behind schedule due to a changing development timetable for Berewood, the earlier need to review and reduce costs and the onset of COVID-19.	A revised timetable will be developed.	The delay allows new residents to be engaged and involved in the process.
<u>Project capacity</u> Lack of suitable management and oversight of programme delivery.	Options are being considered to ensure appropriate resourcing.	

## 11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 Moneys deployed from the development's S106 contributions are overseen on behalf of the Forum by the West of Waterlooville Arts Advisory Panel. The Panel was also subsequently given responsibility for deployment of the remaining budget from the Section 106 contribution for play areas on the Taylor Wimpey site. The Panel last met on 9 September 2020.
- 11.2 Three art projects were either completed or in progress at the time of the last Arts Advisory Panel meeting: Newlands Walk, The Gateway Commission and the Boat Pond. The intention was for the Grainger art contribution to enable at least one further commission in addition to these.

### Progress to date

- 11.3 Newlands Walk open space

- a) A Frost Design was selected to create a bespoke play area. This involved local children helping to design features to be carved into the play equipment. The play area was opened on the 7 July 2018.
- b) Alongside the bespoke play equipment, the care home, Berewood Primary, Denmead Infants, and Denmead Junior schools each designed a bench for the area.
- c) The WoWPod was created as a mobile installation to promote and encourage activity at locations across the development. Unfortunately, structural and logistical issues meant that it did not prove possible to safely install the WoWPod in Newlands Walk and it was eventually gifted to YMCA at Fairthorne Manor.

#### 11.4 The Gateway

- a) This commission received planning permission and was installed in the town park during 2019. The idea was for saplings to be trained to grow around the armatures of a metal ring.
- b) Unfortunately the trees did not take and have subsequently died, leaving just the ring remaining. Oak saplings were used in an attempt to reflect links to the historic Forest of Bere, but arboricultural advice is that the oak saplings are not well suited to this use and are unlikely to succeed.
- c) It is proposed that options are investigated to undertake the planting again, but with a different species that is more appropriate than oak. While not entirely meeting the original brief, this would mean the installation could be completed as planned with the additional cost minimised.

#### 11.5 The Boat Pond

- a) The concept was for a living sculpture of oak trees that forms a boat, with an adjacent boat pond, all situated within the town park area. There would be an associated programme of community engagement to see further oak trees planted and to engage residents in building model boats.
- b) The project never got as far as planning, because the estimated cost escalated to potentially £350k. Grainger worked with Wayward to value engineer the commission and results of borehole testing showed there could be a sufficient natural supply of water to reduce the filtration requirements and associated costs.
- c) Concerns remain regarding the escalation of these costs in relation to the original estimate and the proportion of the overall fund the revised estimate represents. The parish council remains keen to retain the link to the past that this project provided, but there are potential

management implications and costs that would be placed on the parish council and which need to be fully understood.

- d) The boating lake project will be reviewed. The parish council will need to be involved in the decision.
- 11.6 Based on current estimates, the projects summarised above would take most of the arts programme contributions. While this would deliver some iconic and memorable installations, they would be small in number and their impact would only be felt in a couple of locations across a large development. Further thought will be given to whether this approach represents best use of the available resources and whether a reset of the programme might lead to a better outcome.

#### Governance and management

- 11.7 The Arts Advisory Panel met regularly up until September 2020, after which the COVID pandemic led to a pause in activity.
- 11.8 In the early stages, responsibility for the arts programme sat first with the Arts Development Officer from Winchester City Council. When that post was made redundant, the council commissioned external consultants to lead the programme and they developed the suite of projects as described in sections 11.3 – 11.5. When that arrangement came to an end, the Arts Advisory Panel agreed for Grainger to deliver the agreed projects and that arrangement remained in place until COVID came about in 2020 and work was paused.
- 11.9 In January 2022 a group of council officers and members from Winchester City Council met with representatives from Grainger to review the position and consider how best to restart work on the arts programme. The consensus was that Winchester City Council is best placed to lead the arts programme and provide the necessary oversight and accountability for use of the funds. However, it was acknowledged that there is no existing resource available to undertake this work so options are being considered for how best to enable this.
- 11.10 Since the Arts Advisory Panel last met in September 2020, the City Council officer who administered the meetings left and has not been replaced. The group agreed to continue with the operation of the Panel, but recognised the need to minimise the amount of work associated with this. Forum members can be reassured that there will continue to be accountability to the Forum for delivery of the programme.

#### 12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 Responsibility for implementation of the arts programme could be passed to another organisation. This happened for a period of time when Grainger took the lead, but it became difficult for the council to maintain sufficient oversight and control so this is not the preferred way to proceed. However, there will

continue to be a role for Grainger's Community Development Manager in supporting the programme and adding value through links to her work.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

WWF106; Progress report from the West of Waterlooville Arts Advisory Panel; 5 July 2018

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

None