

Report of the Interim Town Clerk

Castle Vale Parks Sculpture Trail

Background

1. Council has a continuing engagement with user groups in the Castle Vale Parks
2. A proposal has been received via the user groups, requesting a contribution, not exceeding £2500, from Berwick upon Tweed Town Council, to enable the groups to draw down a sum of approximately £10,000 for a sculpture trail in the parks.
3. The elements proposed for the scheme include engagement work with local schools, and a specifically Berwick related sculpture of a bear.
4. There is no specific budget provision for this scheme, and it is not suitable for a community grant under the current scheme. If council is minded to make such a grant it will need to vire the sum required from non-operational reserves.

Recommendation.

1. That council decide whether it wishes to make a contribution of no more than £2500 towards the proposed sculpture trail, and
2. Delegates the power to implement its decision to the Interim Town Clerk.

Castle Parks Berwick Sculpture Trail - exciting opportunity

Castle Vale Park and Coronation Park (aka the Lily Pond park and Tommy the Miller's) have gone from strength to strength during the past few years, with close to £1million investment from Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery through the Parks for People programme, two years' of Green Flag Award success and the ultimate achievement at Northumbria in Bloom with Castle Vale Park winning best park in 2016 and Coronation Park being awarded "Outstanding" status at the Northumberland in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards.

Thanks must go to the Friends of Castle Parks and Northumberland County Council's Kate Morison for their endless efforts towards to the parks, but they are not resting on their laurels, or roses, or rock gardens.

Their next project is to create a sculpture trail which will encompass both parks and provide even more opportunity to investigate, interpret and explore the heritage of the parks and of Berwick. It also provides an exciting opportunity for **local primary schools** to get directly involved at the parks.

The Friends of Castle Parks are currently seeking funding to commission artist and sculptor David Gross (www.davidgross.info) to develop and create wooden sculptures that will provide space for play, discovery and understanding of local heritage. David excels at working with community groups and schools to create sculptures that have real community ownership.

This extract from David's website sums up his approach...

"I believe it is important that sculptures in public places should be meaningful and engaging to the people who see them everyday, not just admired by the odd few with a special interest in art.

To this end I often begin projects with workshops in a range of materials such as, clay and plaster, junk and papier mache, and wood.

I try to create a relaxed atmosphere where people learn some very simple techniques to help them develop their own ideas and share them with the rest of the group, who in turn respond with new designs. Through this process everyone gains a deeper understanding of how artworks evolve.

Usually a course of workshops leads naturally into the making of a large scale sculpture in wood, with ample opportunities for others to lend a hand with construction, carving, digging foundations, mixing concrete, etc, until the installation is complete."

We believe this is fantastic opportunity for **schools** to get involved at the parks and would like to work with you to develop the artwork that will eventually be installed in the parks.

The process will require a number of workshops with small groups of children to explore themes and develop ideas which will eventually become the sculptures, as well as opportunities for creation, carving and installation of the sculptures.

It fits directly into many curriculum activities - history, science, art and design, geography - with opportunities to link to other subjects including literacy and communication and computing.

We will have a clear idea of when workshops will take place once we have determined how many schools would like to be involved and have secured funding but would hope to have the sculptures designed, completed and installed by the end of 2017.

To get involved, please contact Kate Morison, Parks Development Officer for the Castle Parks, at Northumberland County Council on kate.morison@northumberland.gov.uk or 07876 398026.

Sculpture Trail project Budget - Arts Council

	Qty	Unit Price		Town Council Contribution		Arts Council Contribution
Artists Costs						
8 sculptures of local wildlife						
Materials - Oak/Cedar/Yew	8	£ 125.00	£ 1,000.00			£ 1,000.00
Artists time (days)	28	£ 250.00	£ 7,000.00			£ 7,000.00
Bear Sculpture						
Materials - Oak/Cedar/Yew	1	£ 200.00	£ 200.00	£ 200.00		
Artists time (days)	6	£ 250.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00		
Installation materials			£ 200.00			£ 200.00
Artists time (days)	3		£ 750.00			£ 750.00
Transport			£ 150.00			£ 150.00
School workshops	8	£ 125.00	£ 1,000.00			£ 1,000.00
Transport			£ 200.00			£ 200.00
Standard tree to plant with bear			£ 76.32	£ 76.32		
Interpretive Plaques			£ 86.89	£ 86.89		
		Total	£ 12,163.21	£ 1,863.21	15%	£ 10,300.00
						85%

Sculpture Trail project Budget - Landfill Tax						
	Qty	Unit Price		Town Council Contribution		Landfill Tax Contribution
Artists Costs						
8 sculptures of local wildlife						
Materials - Oak/Cedar/Yew	8	£ 125.00	£ 1,000.00			£ 1,000.00
Artists time (days)	28	£ 250.00	£ 7,000.00			£ 7,000.00
Bear Sculpture						
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Artists time (days)	3		£ 750.00			£ 750.00
Transport			£ 150.00			£ 150.00
School workshops	8	£ 125.00	£ 1,000.00			£ 1,000.00
Transport			£ 200.00			£ 200.00
Standard tree to plant with bear			£ 76.32	£ 76.32		
Interpretive Plaques			£ 86.89			£ 86.89
		Total	£ 12,163.21	£ 1,776.32	15%	£ 10,386.89
				£ 1,194.49	11.5% landfill tax levy	
				£ 2,370.81		