

Item



S106 FUNDING ROUND 2021: PUBLIC ART

To:

Councillor Anna Smith, Executive Councillor for Communities and Deputy Leader (Statutory)

Environment & Community Scrutiny Committee 7 October 2021

Report by:

Alistair Wilson, Streets & Open Spaces Development Manager
Tel: 01223 - 458514 Email: alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected: All wards, but particularly Abbey, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, Market, Romsey and West Chesterton wards.

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council uses S106 contributions paid by developers to mitigate the impact of development in Cambridge. As part of its 2021 generic S106 funding round, the Council has invited grant applications from community groups working with professional artists for small-scale (say, up to £20,000) public art projects in Cambridge. This has focused on those parts of the city where off-site public art generic S106 funding is still available. All eight public art grant applications received have been assessed against the Council's Public Art S106 selection criteria. Officers recommend six of these proposals for funding (subject to further information to address queries raised on five of them).
- 1.2 A further Public Art report will follow in January 2022, focusing on the Public Art Commissioning Strategy and how the remaining off-site public art generic S106 contributions can be used effectively and on time. This will also provide updates on on-going public art projects.

- 1.3 This January 2022 report will also look again at the progress made by two applicants (for proposals D and H) that require further work to meet the public art S106 selection criteria.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- 2.1 allocate generic S106 funding to the small-scale public art project identified in the 'allocate' column of Table 1 (as detailed the Appendix), subject to business case approval, a public art agreement and project completion or significant progress within 18 months.
- 2.2 delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhoods and Communities to allocate generic S106 funding to projects to the small-scale public art projects identified in the 'delegate' column of Table 1 (as detailed in the Appendix) that make sufficient progress towards meeting the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 4.1 by the 30th November 2021.

Table 1: Public art proposals that require further clarification

	Small scale public art proposals	Allocate	Delegate
A.	Abbey People's Creative canopy (Abbey ward)	c.£20,000	-
B.	Birdwood Area Art project (Coleridge ward) Dinky Doors	-	Up to £10,000
C.	Cherry Hinton Brook mural (brook runs through Romsey, Coleridge & Cherry Hinton wards)	-	c.£6,600
E.	Jesus Green community art project (Market ward)	-	Up to £20,000
F.	Living at Mitcham's Corner (West Chesterton)	-	Up to £12,000
G.	Ride with Pride (City-wide)	-	£18,900

2.3 Instruct officers to seek further details from projects (summarised below and detailed in the Appendix) and work with the applicants to further develop their applications and report back to the next Scrutiny Committee with a further recommendation.

D. Coldham's Lane Bridge public artwork (Romsey ward);

H. Romsey Rec Ground public art installation (Romsey ward).

3. Background

3.1. The Council has secured off-site S106 funds from developers to help mitigate the impact of local development in Cambridge. This has included off-site public art S106 contributions. An [overview of S106 funding](#) and [Public art](#) pages can be found on the Council's website¹.

3.2 Public art S106 contributions have helped to fund both public art commissions² instigated by the Council as well as grants to local community groups (working with an artist)³ to undertake their own small-scale public art projects in Cambridge. A further grant round has taken place in 2021, both to help identify proposals that might be incorporated in the emerging Public Art Commissioning Strategy and also enable the Council to maintain a flow of spending of public art S106 funding.

3.3 The 2021 round has progressed as follows.

a. S106 proposals were invited between mid-July and the end of August 2021. This has been publicised via the Council's website, social media and news releases.

b. Officers have assessed the applications against the public art S106 selection criteria.

c. Where S106 funding is available locally, ward councillors have been asked to encourage local community groups also to put forward

1. The 'Overview' sets out why developer contributions are collected and how they are used. It also explains the difference between generic and specific S106 contributions.

2. The Council's on-going commissions include the 'To the River' public art project and a project that has been developed under the working title of the 'Art of Play'.

3. Previously, small-scale public art grant funding rounds took place between 2014/15 and 2018/19.

eligible proposals and given the opportunity in September 2021 to comment on the proposals received.

- 3.4 As mentioned in S106 funding reports in previous years, the availability of the remaining generic S106 funds is limited and unevenly spread across the city.
- a. This reflects differences across the city in the amount and scale of housing development and S106-funded public art projects (completed or being developed) in each area of the city.⁴
 - b. Small-scale projects supported by public art S106 grants tend to be funded from available off-site contributions from the same ward. Public art commissions (particularly those of strategic significance or relating to more than one ward) can be funded from S106 contributions from the same area of the city or, as appropriate, from public art S106 contributions from across the city.
 - c. Consistent with previous S106 funding rounds, the 2021 generic S106 funding rounds has only been able to seek public art project proposals from those wards that still have S106 funding available locally. In 2021, this is all wards (apart from Newnham and Castle), but particularly Romsey, Abbey, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, Market and Trumpington wards.

4. Consideration of Public Art grant applications

- 4.1 The public art grant applications received during the 2021 round have been assessed against the following agreed selection criteria. These have featured in the application pack and on the website throughout the application process. In summary, to be eligible for public art S106 funding, projects should⁵:
- a. be publicly accessible
 - b. be within the city of Cambridge
 - c. engage local communities
 - d. be new and original
 - e. be led by a professional artist or craftsperson

4. That is North Area, East Area, South Area and West/Central Area.

5. On the Council's website, it was also made clear that the Council would encourage proposals that can be delivered within 18 months of the grant being awarded.

- f. involve the appropriate remuneration of professional artists
- g. be site or context sensitive
- h. demonstrate excellent artistic quality
- i. have a lasting legacy
- j. be feasible, deliverable and have an appropriate project management plan

4.2 The eight project proposals are summarised in the Appendix, along with a summary of councillor comments and assessments from the Public Art Panel and officers. The assessments are reflected in the recommendations in Section 2.

5. Implications

Financial Implications

- 5.1 The small-scale public art grants round is a useful way of regularly allocating and spending S106 contributions on eligible public art projects: this helps to make appropriate and timely use of the S106 funds, to mitigate the impact of development and to reduce the risk of having to return to developers any contributions that go beyond their 'use-by' dates. The converse is that allocating funds to projects that do not meet the S106 selection criteria or which are less likely to be delivered in a timely manner increases the risk of challenge.
- 5.2 Following this report, officers will continue the focus on making sure:
- a. there is greater clarity on how much unallocated funding is available in each ward;
 - b. further public art projects are identified and delivered to make use of time-limited public art S106 contributions (not least, those in Romsey ward that need to be used or contractually committed in 2023); and
 - c. the use of S106 contributions continue to be monitored and progressed (not least the current "To the River" and "Art of Play" public art commissions).

Staffing Implications

- 5.3 The delivery of the small-scale public art grant projects will be managed by the grant recipients in line with a public art agreement with the Council. The Council's Streets and Open Spaces team will monitor progress and provide advice.

- 5.4 The Coronavirus pandemic has brought significant implications and additional workload pressures both for Council staff and volunteers within local community groups. It remains to be seen whether further pressures will arise in the coming months. If so, this may cause some delays to the implementation of projects. This will be monitored closely. Any significant delays will be reported back to future S106 reports to this committee.

Equality and Poverty Implications

Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change & Environmental Implications

Procurement Implications

Community Safety Implications

- 5.5 In line with the approach to previous S106 funding rounds, these considerations for project proposals that are allocated S106 funding by the Executive Councillor will be developed as part of the business case process (as appropriate) and signed off by the relevant managers.

6. Consultation and communication considerations

- 6.1 The arrangements taken to publicise the funding available and application process are detailed in paragraph 3.3a. Applications have set out how the public art proposals seek to engage local communities.

7. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Small-scale public art grant applications (redacted) received during the 2021 S106 funding round and related assessments;
- Small-scale public art grants – guidance pack, July 2021;
- S106 Funding: Next Steps (Streets and Open spaces)' report to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee, 21 March 2019;
- Further information can be found on the [Developer contributions - Cambridge City Council](#) web page.

8. Appendix

Summary of small-scale Public Art grant applications, comments and assessments

9. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Assessment of open space and play area proposals:

Alistair Wilson, Streets & Open spaces Development Manager

telephone: 01223 - 458514

email: alistair.wilson@cambridge.gov.uk

S106 funding round process and S106 funding availability:

Tim Wetherfield, Urban Growth Project Manager

Telephone: 01233 457313

Email: tim.wetherfield@cambridge.gov.uk

Summary of small-scale Public Art grant applications, comments and assessments^{6,7}

Project summary	Assessment summary
A. Abbey People's Creative Canopy (Abbey ward)	
<p>Applicant: Cambridge Curiosity & Imagination (CCI)</p> <p>Artist: Hilary Cox-Condron</p> <p>Proposed project: To culminate in the creation of a collection of 20 original hangings celebrating the creativity of the community and their relationship with the natural world. These unique artworks will be exhibited in the Barnwell area, before forming part of CCI's larger and ongoing <i>Forest of Imagination</i> project and finding a permanent home as a composite vinyl to be displayed in Abbey People's Community Hub.</p> <p>To be delivered in partnership with Galfrid School.</p> <p>Suggested timescales: March to December 2022.</p> <p>Grant requested: c.£20,000</p>	<p>Public Art Panel feedback: Robust project with clear delivery process and outcomes. The involvement of Cambridge Curiosity & Imagination will help ensure effective management delivery. Support has already been gained from a number of sources.</p> <p>Officer assessment: Recommend for funding.</p> <p>Further discussion will be needed with the applicant about the admin costs and how the contingency allowance within the proposed project budget will be managed.</p>
B. Birdwood Area Art project (Coleridge ward)	

-
6. Councillor Herbert has also made a general comment about the possibility of public art in the public green space next to Bailey House off Rustat Road, dedicated to Alexander Crummell (a 19th century American, the son of a former slave, thought to be the first black person to graduate from Cambridge University).
7. Officers acknowledge the helpful comments on the public art proposals from David Wright, of the Public Art Panel.

Project summary	Assessment summary
<p>Applicant: Birdwood Road Residents' Association</p> <p>Artist: Dinky Doors</p> <p>Proposed project: A Dinky Door for the Birdwood Area of Coleridge Ward. It would be a project to include residents' ideas – possibly the history of this area of Cambridge or other ideas depending on what our residents come up with. One initial idea is to include something related to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poems. Whatever is decided, we will be very careful not to hamper the creativity of the Dinky Doors team.</p> <p>Suggested timescales: As soon as can be arranged,</p> <p>Grant requested: £7,000-£10,000.</p>	<p>Public Art Panel feedback: Clever idea but would need more information about how the designs would be agreed, how project quality would be assured and why the budget is £7,000-£10,000.</p> <p>Officer assessment: Probable but needs further information. More information is needed on how the project will engage the community, further details on the proposed artist fees and the expected project timescales are also required.</p>
<p>C. Cherry Hinton Brook mural (Cherry Hinton Brook runs through Romsey, Coleridge & Cherry Hinton wards)</p>	
<p>Applicant: Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook</p> <p>Artist: Artists and students at Rowan Humberstone.</p> <p>Proposed project: To celebrate the importance of the chalk brook for its wildlife. It will incorporate key aspects of the brook as appropriate, such as its wildlife surrounding environment and local history and communities. The mural will be designed to entertain and engage passers-by, will have educational content, and will be particularly relevant to residents of Romsey, Coleridge and Cherry Hinton. There will be an</p>	<p>Feedback from Public Art Panel: Strong application. Rowan has a good record of delivery.</p> <p>Officer assessment: Probable, but not yet ready to be considered. The application has not secured a site location. Further information on the timescales for the project and are needed and clarification as to whether the budget is sufficient (not least in the context of artist fees).</p>

Project summary	Assessment summary
<p>explanatory notice adjacent to it.</p> <p>Suggested timescales: Late 2022 to May 2023.</p> <p>Grant requested: £6,600.</p>	
D. Coldham's Lane bridge artwork (Romsey ward)	
<p>Applicant: Coldham's Lane Romsey Residents' Association</p> <p>Artist: Hilary Cox-Condron</p> <p>Proposed project: To promote community cohesion on Coldham's Lane. The artwork will be inspired by the local heritage, stories, nature and community to raise awareness and positive action. The artist will initially work with Coldham's Lane, Romsey Residents' Association & children from St Philip's School to develop ideas, artwork and links across the Coldham's Lane community, to create a cohesive piece of artwork truly reflective of the rich and diverse local community.</p> <p>Initial contact made with Network Rail.</p> <p>Suggested timescales: Four months</p> <p>Grant requested: To be clarified.</p>	<p>Public Art Panel feedback: Need to clarify on budget as this will define what is feasible: cannot proceed before this is confirmed. Care should be taken to ensure Network Rail support. Already has Councillor support.</p> <p>Officer assessment: Possible, but not yet ready to be considered. We need confirmation that permissions for the project are in place and further information about the project concept and the proposed budget.</p>
E. Jesus Green community art project (Market ward)	

Project summary

Applicant: Park Street residents' Association

Artist: Hermione Spriggs

Proposed project: Community Workshops exploring the history Jesus Green and the wildlife of the adjacent river - with an output from the workshops delivering an Art Installation on Jesus Green (by newly established river walkway). The artwork would be a unique piece celebrating Cambridge, the Green, and the River - its unique aspect arises because the work evolves from the community engagement and community workshops prior to design and fabrication.

Suggested timescales: Workshops from November 2021 to July 2022. Development of artwork from August 2022 to April 2023.

Grant requested: £20,000

Councillor comment: Councillor Porrer has commented that she and Councillor Bick support the public art proposal. She would be keen to explore any overlap with the 'To the River' commission to assist promotion of the history of Jesus Green and to see if this project could work together with the existing one.

Assessment summary

Public Art Panel feedback: Straightforward, well considered project with support already in place from Residents' Associations.

Officer assessment: Probable but needs further information. The City Council has a current project called 'To the River'. This new proposal sounds broadly similar. We must avoid duplication.

F. Living at Mitcham's Corner (West Chesterton)

Project summary

Applicant: Friends of Mitcham's Corner

Artist: Not yet approached. Once we know we can get the funding we will approach potential (local, national and international) artists.

Purpose: A semi-permanent living wall with suspended art mobiles. This will help create a visual enrichment for those living in and passing through the area. Now more than ever having a living artwork will be very important to mental wellbeing.

Suggested timescales: Not clear

Grant requested: £12,000

Councillor comment: Councillor Scutt supports this proposal. It "is timely, well-constructed, engaging and the result would be aesthetically pleasing, a good enhancement of the area, with potential for engaging the community....Mitcham's Corner is a prime area for artistic display". She also points out that "The Friends is a reliable organisation with the capacity to bring to fruition this proposal, effectively, efficiently and in an aesthetically pleasing manner." The lead within the Friends on art projects has a strong record of project delivery (e.g., Mitcham's Models).

Councillors Bird & Sargeant also support this proposal.

Assessment summary

Public Art Panel feedback: Interesting project. Group has run projects successfully before. Assuming that the project is a vertical planting scheme, this needs very specific technical and artistic skills'. Need to ensure that the group has arranged for these and budgeted appropriately.

Officer assessment: Probable but needs further information. This application is short on detail. As such, it is difficult to know where it would engage the local community, be new and original, represent high quality public art and involve a professional artist.

G. Ride with Pride (City-wide)

Project summary

Applicant: The Pink Festival Group

Artist: We would seek a curator for this project.

Purpose: To help tackle and address a range of health, wellbeing & self-isolation legacies attributable to Covid. Cycles will become individual art installations for the day. The focus will be celebrating Cambridge's rich & diverse community, particularly celebrating LGBTQ+ communities to link to possible Cambridge Pride 2022.

The aim is to engage the local LGBTQ+ community through creative and structured, workshops culminating in an end of project 'finale' or 'moving exhibition' We seek to provide a platform to champion local queer artists and promote environmentally sustainable travel in the form of cycling (in all forms, the funnier the better). We will engage with local businesses and organisations to contribute. We aim to make the activities inclusive to the wider community. We will have a social media campaign to promote the Project in the lead up period to the finale –hopefully, this would be in conjunction with a Pride event in 2022.

Suggested timescales: Workshops will take place 8 weeks before the Cambridge Pride event 2022.

Grant requested: £18,900

Assessment summary

Public Art Panel feedback: Approach not necessarily as innovative as suggested, but has the potential to involve lots of people at multiple stages. Suggests that the City Council is involved in the appointment of the artist/curator.

Officer assessment: Probable, but needs further information.

The application is similar in nature to a previous application for a River Parade in 2019.

Further discussion is needed to make sure that the proposals would meet the public art S106 selection criteria, particularly in relating to (i) being new & original; (ii) being led by a professional artist; (iii) providing excellent artistic quality; and (iv) providing a lasting legacy.

Romsey Recreation Ground public art installation (Romsey ward)

Project summary

Applicant: Councillor Pound

Artist: Propose to engage an artist

Purpose: Create a sculpture or piece of permanent artwork.

Suggested timescales: As soon as possible

Grant requested: -

Councillor comment: Councillor Baigent has expressed support for public art at Romsey Rec, particularly given a considerable amount of recent development in the ward. He suggests that a railway theme may be a starting point, although there is much in Romsey of historic value. It might also commemorate those involved with the development of the recreation ground.

Assessment summary

Public Art Panel feedback: A lot of unknowns need clarifying. The project's success will depend on the appointment of an 'appropriate' artist. Would be useful for the project to have Council Public Art support.

Officer assessment: Possible, but not yet ready to be considered.

This application is short on detail. As such, it is difficult to know where it would engage the local community, be new and original, represent high quality public art and involve a professional artist. The intended size of the project needs to be clarified, particularly in terms of whether this is intended as a small-scale grant project or a large-scale commission.

Given the availability of public art S106 contributions from Romsey ward that will need to be contractually committed or used in 2023, the emerging Public Art Commissioning Strategy will need to address as a matter of urgency how these contributions will be used.