

Your Ref: EW/PAPA/2023

Our Ref:

Contact: Elspeth Winram

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Wednesday 24 May 2023

Stewart Aiken

SHMU on behalf of Culture Aberdeen
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Dear Stewart Aiken

Public Art Application: Remembering Together

Thank you for presenting the proposal giving the background to the Remembering Together project Phase 1, 15 K and an introduction to Phase 2 of the project 100K which is funded by the Scottish Government via Greenspace Scotland. All 32 local Authorities were offered this opportunity and it is a Scotland wide project.

The Panel felt the Phase 1 report demonstrated excellent public consultation and found the recommendations from the report comprehensive and that the location of Bon Accord Gardens fitted the description and brief for the development of the next part of the project.

The Panel discussed the previously arranged site visit that had happened between your project, Environmental Services and Mental Health Aberdeen in which they had discussed the long-term development of Bon Accord Gardens having a theme of Mental Health and Wellbeing. This development would link very well with the Phase 2 proposal as Covid affected different groups mental health and the use of green outdoor space became a focus of that time. As mentioned in the meeting these partnerships can lead to drawing in additional funding such as core paths to improve the walkways within the gardens. The location is accessible by car with car parking on Willowbank Road and has public transport that stops near Langstane Place on Union Street so does require pedestrians to walk 3 minutes or 7 minutes from bus stops.

In the meeting the Panel highlighted that the proposal would require planning consent and that the location is in the centre of a conservation area and that a planning application for Phase 2 would need to be made which can take up to 2

Richard Sweetnam
Chief Officer

months. This led to a discussion about the timeline for the proposal and the need for it to show flexibility.

They also discussed any accessibility from the road area or the car park to install the future public art proposal. During the site visit it was noted that there were two locations that are accessible for a lorry with a crane or a forklift to access. The Panel would highlight that known access would be from Willowbank Road, with the artwork being moved along the existing paths, and the costs for the install and access to site would need to be mentioned in the artist brief as it could lead to an additional cost.

Recommendations

The Panel felt that they could recommend the Remembering Together Phase 2 proposal to be located in Bon Accord Gardens as long as the Committee are in support and an application for planning consent is sought once the design is known.

The Panel asked for a copy of the phase 2 Artist Brief which they have received, reviewed and commented on. This is because they will be recommending the process of appointing an artist to design the proposal rather than the design itself and as mentioned decisions, a timeline and processes for this proposal will require careful managing.

The next step is for Environmental Services to lead a Committee Report to go to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee. This report should include the information that the ownership of the artwork will transfer to ACC once installed and that a member of Environmental Services will sit on the Phase 2 interview Panel, to ensure that the design is one that is suitable for the site. There is a maintenance budget within the overall budget which is welcomed. It is difficult to ascertain at this point what the overall maintenance will be of the proposal going forward until the final design has been decided upon.

The Panel agreed with the applicant that continued community consultation will be important going into Phase 2 of the Remembering Together Project to ensure that the project is well received in the area, which will in turn support any planning application.

The applicant should seek pre application advice re the planning application as soon as the design and detailing of the project is known. A duty planning officer can be contacted on pi@aberdeencity.gov.uk or call 01224 523470 Mon-Fri 10-4pm to discuss general principles. Pre application advice provides a further level of detail which is tailored to the project.

Information on the pre-application advice service can be found on our website:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building/planning-applications/apply-planning-permission/pre-application-advice>

It was noted the site is located within the Bon Accord and Crown Street Conservation Area – an assessment will be made based on the impact the proposal has to the character and appearance of the conservation area. There is also a Category B listed 3 tiered garden terrace located within the garden, and listed buildings on Bon Accord Terrace and the Hardgate – the implication of the proposal on the setting of listed buildings will possibly be used in assessing the application. Further information on

the Bon Accord and Crown Street Conservation Area can be found within the Conservation Area Character Appraisal https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2013_Con_Appraisal_4_BonAccord.pdf. The impact on trees will also be assessed to ensure the proposal does not harm or result in loss of trees.

A Planning Application can be made once there is a decision on the preferred artist and design. This will require 2 months.

The Planning Authority will determine whether to consent the planning application. Planning have delegated powers and so the decision about planning consent may not have to go to committee.

Within this process, the Panel would highlight there is the risk that planning consent will not be given. If this were to be the case recommendations by planning could be followed or another site could be considered. This highlights the need to make sure that the selected artist design is suitable for the site.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elspeth Winram".

Elspeth Winram
Cultural Planning Officer