

Cowbridge Comprehensive Public Art Scheme | Brief to Artists | June 2009

Bridge balustrade infill panels

Vale of Glamorgan | Safle



Image of the bridge leading to the glass entrance wall.
The location of the balustrade is illustrated by the light
grey wall behind the figures on the right.



1. Background

The Council is proceeding with a £16.5m first phase of work at the upper school site at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on Aberthin Road, with an estimated completion date of September 2010. It has also submitted a bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for further funding of £5m to allow a 'single phase' completion of the state of the art development. When complete, the new school will be a mix of new build and refurbished buildings and mean the end of 'split working' over three sites at Aberthin Road and Town Mill Road.

Four existing buildings, including the gymnasium and technology block, will be demolished, while a further four, including the kitchen and canteen area, art block and classrooms, will be refurbished.

New build of 6,700 square metres will include:

- an indoor four court sports hall and changing rooms;
- gym facilities which can also be used for keep fit, dance, etc;
- a main hall for assemblies, school productions, presentation evenings;
- music and rehearsal rooms;
- a drama studio;
- assisted learning, design and food technology facilities;
- science, humanities and English classrooms;
- staff room and management suite, and
- space for tutorials and individual learning.

A critical aspect of the development will be the provision of a safe area for the drop off and pick up of pupils and, following the purchase of land adjacent to the site, there are plans for an all-weather pitch, multi-use games area and traditional grass areas for football, rugby, cricket and athletics which form part of the second phase of the development.

2. The Commission

The Vale of Glamorgan would like to commission an artist/s to develop a detailed design proposal for the Bridge balustrade infill panels. The total budget for this feature will be £56,000 plus VAT. The budget breakdown and timescales are explained in section 4.1.

2.1 The Bridge balustrade infill panels

In the architects vision, the journey from the drop off points near the school's main entrance to the foyer will be seamless journey that takes the visitor in to the school. Anyone using the new pathways will enjoy a new paving scheme that leads the pedestrian from the drop off points straight to the main entrance and foyer area. Part of this journey will involve the use of a low bridge.

We want to commission an artist who will research, prepare and run workshops that will take place in the school with a selected year group and spend time designing an exciting alternative to the currently planned balustrades. The balustrades can be made out of any material that is strong enough to act as a safety barrier and meets the statutory health and safety requirements.

There is scope for a possible lighting element that could be inserted in to the handrail.

The bridge will have support posts in-place and details of the exact measurements and requirements will be given to the selected artist only. The bridge dimensions are approximately a little over 9 and a half metres wide and 18 metres long. There will be approximately 60 panel spaces available for potential artistic intervention.

It is envisaged that the bridge balustrade design will potentially link in some way the design for the glass wall entrance and it is expected that the commissioned artist will liaise with the selected glass wall entrance artist. We do not wish to prescribe what will happen during this design period thus leaving plenty scope for a free flow of ideas, but it is anticipated that the two designs will be complementary.

On completion, the artist will be asked to present their designs to an arts steering group, which is charged with recommending approval to the Client. Small amendments to the design may be requested by the steering group and the artist agrees to undertake these at no extra design time cost, within reason. To facilitate this process, the steering group will meet to review the artists indicative proposals prior to the final presentation meeting and discuss these with the artist.

The artists will be selected in July, expected to research and prepare during August and then run workshops in September and October; the dates to be finalised with the selected artist and the school.

The design proposal will be presented by the artist in November and, subject to approval, will be commissioned to fabricate the artwork, to be installed by June 2010.

2.2 Maintenance

The commissioned artist will develop detailed proposals for artworks as part of the Cowbridge Comprehensive School development programme. Consideration within the proposals must be given to ongoing maintenance of the works as follows:

- The artworks should not have any costly ongoing maintenance requirements.
- The artworks should be accessible for maintenance / replacement of component parts.
- A comprehensive maintenance schedule must be approved by Vale of Glamorgan Council.

2.3 Constraints

The commissioned artist will be asked to consider the following constraints during the design development of the works.

- Cowbridge Comprehensive School cleansing and pedestrian safety policy.
- Other underground services may need to be taken into consideration.
- Views and vistas of key landmark buildings are to be retained.
- Works need to be durable and have low maintenance requirements.
- Works are required to consider issues in relation to vandalism in the public realm.
- Particular attention will be paid to health and safety.
- The artworks must not conflict with existing safety measures such as CCTV and lighting.
- Access for pedestrians will be maintained.
- Compliance with the implications of DDA regulations.
- Compliance with planning and building regulations.

2.4 Professional Practice

In the event of manufacture by the artist she/he must demonstrate current and appropriate indemnity insurance relevant to the artist in person and to the object/s to be manufactured. Where it is anticipated that on-site manufacture or installation will be carried out by the artist in conjunction with the project team, adequate and appropriate public liability and professional indemnity insurance must be in place. In the event of commissioning, details of Professional and Product Indemnity will be required sufficient to provide the Client with assurance on matters of liability and so that neither the client or contractor are exposed to undue risk on any element commissioned from the artist. The observation of CDM regulations is required where appropriate.

In addition to constraints already stated, detailed consideration must be given to:

- Issues of Health and Safety both in the design proposal and realization.
- Methodology.
- Material and structural integrity.
- Methodology for manufacture.

3. Artist Selection

An arts steering group panel has been formed that will consist of representatives from Vale of Glamorgan Councillors and officers, members of the school including teachers and pupils, HLM Architects and Safle. The arts steering group will invite shortlisted artists to interview for the commission. The interview panel will select one or more artists to run workshops with pupils from the school and use the generated ideas to inform their designs. The artist/s will present their designs to the arts steering group who will then decide whether or not to commission the artwork. The artist/s may be asked to alter or modify the design, in which case no extra payment is available if this scenario were to occur.

The interviews will be held at a location to be confirmed. The interview will last 45 minutes during which the artist will have approximately 20 minutes to present their work with the remaining 25 minutes for questions from and to the panel. Applicants will be assessed on the basis of their track record, approach and initial response to the brief. We do not require designs at this stage.

3.1 Commissioning Agency

Following a competitive tendering process by the Vale of Glamorgan, Safle was awarded the contract to provide management services in the development of the Cowbridge Public Art Scheme. Based in Cardiff, and working across the UK, Safle integrates exceptional art interventions within urban and rural landscapes, communities, regeneration initiatives and architectural developments. Safle will maintain links between the commissioned artist/s, the Client and other identified stakeholders throughout the design and implementation of the project.

4. Budget and Appointment

This commission will follow a 2-stage appointment process with the artists initially contracted to undertake Stage 1 as below. The commencement of Stage 2 will be dependent on the arts steering group giving approval of the final design proposals and the securing of any permissions required.

4.1 Stage 1 – Artist Design

An artist /s will be commissioned to develop detailed designs for the bridge balustrade infill screens for approval by The Client and submitted to the Local Authority for Planning Approval.

The artist Stage 1 fee for the design of the works is as follows:

Artist design fee	£2,000
Workshop Fees	£1500
Workshop material	£500

Timescale for Stage 1

Artist Selection	July 2009
Artist research time	August 2009
Workshop period	September / October 2009
Artist Design	November 2009
Presentation of completed design	November / December 2009
Local Authority Planning Approvals	January 2010
Artwork fabrication commences	January / February 2010

4.2 Stage 2 – Artwork Implementation

The budget for the artist to fabricate and install the works is £ 52,000 plus VAT.

Timescale for stage 2

Timescales for the commencement of Stage 2 are to be confirmed however the artist will be contracted to deliver and install the works by June 2010.

5. Application Procedure

To apply please send a powerpoint presentation of up to **eight** pages showing examples of past work appropriate to this commission, a descriptive list to accompany images, a current CV and letter of application. Applications should be sent to:

Bridge balustrade infill panels
Cowbridge Comprehensive School Public Art Scheme
Safle
Unit 4, Sovereign Quay
Havannah Street
Cardiff
CF10 5SF

DEADLINE for applications is 5pm, 6th July 2009.

5.1. Technical information

If you use Windows Vista please save your powerpoint presentation as a 97-2003 compatible version. Please do not send individual images, always present them in a PowerPoint or PDF format.

5.2. Applicant Enquiries

All questions and queries regarding applications should be sent to David Symons at the address above or to David.Symons@safle.com or phone 0845 241 3684.

Prepared for Vale of Glamorgan Council by:



Safle 2009