

## **Artist Brief – The Upper Drive, Brighton & Hove**

A £20,000 Public Art Commission is offered for a series of site specific pieces or interventions across a residential housing development on The Upper Drive, Brighton & Hove.

### **I The Site**

- 1.1** 9-11 Upper Drive is a newbuild development of four 3 storey and 4 storey blocks. The 25 apartments are mostly two bedroom flats, some with roof terraces and there is parking to the rear of the building.

The building was designed by architect Nick Lomax and is partly clad in pale timber, with brick features, glass-fronted balconies and large picture windows. The side of the building is rendered white with smaller balconies and windows. There are some mature trees to the side of the building, and a grassed area and shrubs to the front.

- 1.2** The Upper Drive itself is a quiet crescent of predominantly detached residences from the 1930's period. They are set back from the road and have leafy gardens leading to a tree-lined pavement. The new development is contrastingly light, with a modern structure and architecture. The building itself is set back from the road behind a low pale-brick wall surmounted by a fence of aluminium-coloured metal railings, the paved area in front of the development is made up of light coloured flagstones. The development is partially enclosed, but highly visible. The large sliding french windows and glass-fronted balconies encourage the sense of openness and residents use the lawns to the front of the building. The affordable housing within the development is located to the side of the main building along Caisters Close. The block has a small parking area set with mature trees, overlooked by the smaller glass-fronted balcony windows. To the rear of the buildings, a large parking area backed by a sloping grassed bank completes the development.

### **2 History and current use of the site**

- 2.1** The Upper Drive was constructed in 1878 by local landowners in conjunction with the London, Brighton and South coast Railway Company to form part of a carriage drive linking Hove to Preston Park via The Drive and Dyke Road Drive. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, The Upper Drive was dominated by the Sacred Heart Convent, and a private boys' school, both built in the Gothic style.

The Sacred Heart Convent is now Cardinal Newman Catholic School, a large 11-18 comprehensive school set in mature grounds. On the opposite side of the road, the boy's school has become Cottesmore RC Primary School, and part of the land adjacent to it was developed in the 1960's into a modern comprehensive school, now part of the Brighton & Hove High School for Girls.

- 2.2** The top of the Upper Drive is crossed by Dyke Road, on which are local amenities including a Post Office, pub, and garage with supermarket.

Old Shoreham Road cuts across the Upper Drive, with the schools to the north. The south end of the Upper Drive is a leafy residential area central to Hove and near to Brighton's city centre. The existing buildings are mainly large detached houses from the 1930's, some of which have been converted into flats. The houses are set in gardens, mainly walled, some with drives and quite secluded. There are mature trees in the gardens. There is a terrace of neo-Georgian residences from the 1970's set back from the road, with an open grassed area and shrubs to the front.

### **3 The Commission**

- 3.1** The commission calls for a series of pieces or interventions across the whole site which reflect and enhance the existing style and layout. Proposed pieces should vary in design but must echo or reference each other in order to create the sense of a 'trail' across the site, which includes the four blocks which comprise the building, as well as the parking and grassed area to the rear. The commission could also use the pavement area in front of the development. The commission should enhance the site, and be in keeping with the surrounding area. The multiple sight-lines of the three and four-storey blocks, as well as ground level views from adults and children, should also be considered. The pieces must be site-specific and an original response to the brief. The choice of medium is open at this point.

### **4 Technical information**

Pieces should be no more than 2 metres high. Local residents will be included in choosing the final pieces, to ensure community involvement. We strongly suggest that you visit the site, as specific locations are open at this point.

### **5 Process and Timescale**

If you would like to be considered for the above commission, please send us an expression of interest in writing with supporting material that demonstrates your suitability for the commission in the form of:

- CV
- Evidence of previous comparable work
- An Artist's Statement

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for any materials, slides or pictures that you wish to be returned to you.

**Expressions of interest to be submitted no later than 1<sup>st</sup> October 09 to:-**

Lucy Jefferies – Arts Development Officer  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
Arts and Creative Industries Unit  
King's House  
Grand Avenue  
Hove BN3 2LS

Shortlisted entrants will be notified in mid-October, and will be funded a small fee to develop specific ideas within a three-week period. Entrants will then be invited to present their ideas to a panel. We would hope to be in a position to offer this commission in November, with a view to installation in February or March 2010.

If you have any further enquiries, please contact:

Lucy Jefferies

Address: as above

Email: [lucy.jefferies@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.jefferies@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Tel: 01273 292536

**Pictures of the site**



Front entrance to new development



Side view to new development



Side view with mature trees



Side view



Front view



Front view



Front view



1930's detached house next to new development



1930's housing in the Upper Drive



Detached 1930's houses in the Upper Drive



1930's house converted into flats opposite new development



1970's neo-Georgian housing opposite new development