

## **Artist Opportunity**

Project : Helen Court, River View, Witham

## **Background to the Project**

The above site is a public funded housing scheme for older people who have housing and care needs and wish to retain their independence in a supported environment. The building is currently under construction and scheduled for completion in July 2010. Hanover Housing own the site and SDC Builders are the appointed building contractor.

The scheme has been supported by Braintree District Council and Maldon District Council with additional funds from the Homes and Communities Agency and Hanover. It is also supported by Essex County. This is an excellent example of true partnership working, in order to make this project possible.

There are a mixture of one and two bed high spec self contained wheel chair accessible flats including 40 one bed and 15 two bed flats. There are a number of communal facilities that are for the residents use with progressive privacy to ensure high level of security. There are also facilities that we envisage will be used by the wider public to include a restaurant, an IT café, shop hair salon, beauty suite, meeting rooms, assisted bathrooms etc. the scheme will be staffed 24 hours a day with a care team on site.

The emphasis is on independent living with support. It is important not to see this as a care home. The scheme has been designed to create a modern and welcoming environment but with support available. Every care is taken in design and interior design to ensure an institutional feel is avoided.

The unique physical qualities of the scheme include a sedum roof and biomass boiler to help meet sustainability targets.

## **History of the Site**

The site was formerly a Council owned sheltered housing scheme which had become unpopular and un-lettable due to the small bed sits and stairs throughout. The Council assessed the housing need in the area and it was agreed the replacement project which was most needed was for older people with not only a housing need but also a care need. Also it was important that any replacement should be fully accessible.

The building was transferred at nil cost to the association in return for nominations to the completed scheme. The importance has been on partnership working with all interested parties to ensure all partners requirements aspirations and ideas have been incorporated.

Whilst no provision for public art is required an allowance was made in the building contract for a piece of art work for the project.

## **The project group**

The artist will work in consultation the project team below

Agnes Bishop	Chair Braintree District Arts
Elaine Tribley	Artist and BDA Trail co-ordinator
Wendy Hawtin	Client Development Programme Manager -Hanover
Diane J	Client Head of Operations - Hanover
Colvin Fraser	Client Area Manager - Hanover
David Steel	Housing Enabling Officer – Braintree District Council
John Swords	Housing Enabling Officer - Maldon District Council
Matthew Browne	Henry Riley Clients representative

The successful artist will be appointment by SDC Builders Ltd

## The Opportunity

The project group seeks an artist to consult, develop ideas, design, make and install an external artwork as part of the communal garden open space at Helen Court, River View, Witham.

The artwork should reflect the history of the site where relevant and consider the potential users and visitors of the space and how it will be viewed and used: developing a sense of place to enhance the immediate outdoor space.

Art Project Constraints:-

- the proposal is rooted in the history of the District, its people, development or environment;
- The proposal should aim to be pleasing to a wide spectrum of onlookers and not be controversial
- the proposal reflects the natural and material heritage of the area;
- the themes have direct links to the community;
- The chosen scheme will enhance the spaces and landscaping provided and increases the use of the area by the residents.
- the chosen scheme must demonstrate support from the project group
- the proposed artwork must pass scrutiny as not posing any health and safety dangers, be robust enough to be secure and fit for purpose, using appropriate materials which are durable to the risk of vandalism and suitable for external conditions whilst being in keeping with the local environment
- the chosen scheme aims to be maintenance free
- Installation methods and access to the site to be closely coordinated
- The relationship of the works to its environment
- Project is kept within the budget

## Budget

The total budget for the project is fixed at £13,500 (inclusive of VAT) which will cover the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork as well as taking into account the following associated costs.

- Production fabrication and delivery of the artwork
- All additional materials needed for consultation work
- Your fee for commission which will include planning meetings
- Including foundations, ground works and any services or other associated works.
- Installation of the final artwork(s) –to be determined by the artist and commissioners

## Terms

- The installation of artworks on the site to be determined following liaison with the project team
- The artworks to be of robust and safe materials that will last for a minimum of 20
- To work closely with relevant the project team as appropriate and seek its approval.
- To seek all necessary approvals necessary with Braintree District Council.
- The artist will be expected to produce a maintenance framework for the finished artwork outlining relevant costs associated with maintenance for 20-year period.
- The artist is expected to have a minimum of £5 million public liability insurance.
- The artist will be expected to comply with SDC and Hanover's Health and Safety requirements, Codes of Conduct and Equal Opportunity policy and construction practices.
- The selected artist(s) will be meeting the requirements of SDC builders.
- The artist will be required to attend project-monitoring meetings as required.

## Timetable

It is envisaged that the work will be completed by the end in time for the scheme opening in July 2010.

### Stage 1

Approach to seek expressions of interest and agreement to the timescales proposed, to seek samples of art work by portfolio or e-mail by the 15<sup>th</sup> February

### Stage 2

Shortlist of artists on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb with notification of selected shortlist by 19<sup>th</sup> February by phone or e-mail

### Stage 3

Presentation of design/s by short listed artists on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Likely to take place at SDC site offices.

### Stage 5

Commissioning of artists by SDC proposed to be 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### Stage 6

Completion of art work 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010

## Selection Criteria

The artist will be chosen through interview considering but not limited to the following criteria

- How you plan to meet the aims of the project
- Previous experience of public art commissions and examples of work
- Aesthetic quality
- Approach to the design, manufacture and installation of the work
- The cost breakdown associated with the project – outlined in Budget section
- Quality of previous work
- References from previous projects
- Project management skills and experience of similar projects with examples to demonstrate the project can be achieved on time and in budget.

## Contract

The Artist's Contract for this project will be drawn up by SDC Builders Ltd in accordance with clients brief.

## Application Process

Expressions of interest should include:

1. Up to 10 images of previous/current work
2. A numbered list of the above
3. Expression of interest, no more than 500 words outlining initial thoughts and reasons for applying.
4. Contact information.

Please submit expressions of interest via email to [newbusiness@hanover.org.uk](mailto:newbusiness@hanover.org.uk) or by post to:

Wendy Hawtin  
Hanover Housing Association  
Nelson House  
Nelson House  
Alington Road,  
Eynesbury, St Neots,  
Cambridgeshire,  
PE19 6RE

Please note if you are submitting a hard copy of your expressions of interest via the postal address above then 5 copies are required.

If you require further information please contact Wendy Hawtin on 07714 973125 or email [wendy.hawtin@hanover.org.uk](mailto:wendy.hawtin@hanover.org.uk). If you require access to site please contact Phil Doherty on 01234 363155 or 07984 609094.