



cotswold homes

Cotswold Homes – Wildwood Development at Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield. S106 Public Art Commission – Brief for Artists

The Commission

Cotswold Homes in consultation with South Gloucestershire Council Arts Development Service is seeking to commission an artist to create a socially engaged project for its new Wildwood development at Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield.

Site Background

On the site of a former day care centre, the development will provide a total of thirty-one homes to create a viable and sustainable residential development with a mix of housing sizes and styles distinct to the surrounding development. There is an allocation for social housing in the site which will be managed by Merlin Housing.

The site is located to the north eastern edge of Bristol inside the A4174 Ring Road at Mangotsfield, one mile from the local centre at Emersons Green. The site is bounded to the north by Westerleigh Road and on the west by Blackhorse Road.

The site lies within an established local community and residential area. Directly to the south of the site is a landmark contemporary style community centre and church which itself adjoins allotment land that wraps around the western edges of the site.

The application site is located close to a mix of local amenities including primary and senior schools, shops, public houses, sports facilities and employment opportunities with good pedestrian and highway links, including various bus service routes to surrounding areas. Bus services run along Westerleigh and Blackhorse Road with bus stops only a short distance from the site.

Details of the site layout and proposed housing designs can be found in Appendix 1.

Project Specification

Cotswold Homes wishes to appoint an artist to develop and deliver a project with the following aims:

1. To engage new residents and build social relationships in the new community
2. To create links to the existing community, particularly the neighbouring community centre and allotments but also local schools and community groups as appropriate.

3. To benefit the local community and enable them to achieve something which they would be unable to without the s106 contribution.
4. To compliment or work in partnership with the marketing and community engagement activity for the site which will be in addition to the artist's project – for example, the company has run gardening projects and built time capsules with local schools on past developments.

The residency may or may not result in any permanent features but should leave a legacy in some form; for example, establishing a new community group or event.

If permanent features are created as part of the residency, it is essential that they are robust and require little or no maintenance. Health and Safety features and issues should be considered in the design, fabrication and installation of any public art features. In collaboration with Cotswold Homes, the commissioned Artist(s) should liaise with the relevant adopting body to ensure that they will adopt the final features and to provide a maintenance schedule. It may be necessary to allocate a commuted sum from the total budget to cover maintenance.

Given the proximity to the allotments the commissioning group is particularly interested in projects which explore the local ecology and landscape; for example, through the exploration of local flora and fauna, through gardening and garden design activities or through creating permanent works such as an earth sculpture or community garden on a non-developed area with the shared entrance to the site/community centre.

The commissioning group are also keen to encourage innovative approaches to sustainability and recycling, particularly the re-use of waste such as timber from the site.

Artist's Profile

The Commissioned Artist(s) will be inspiring, dynamic, highly motivated, energetic and enthusiastic. They will also be highly skilled at inspiring and enabling people from a variety of cultures, ages and backgrounds. They will have considerable experience of socially engaged practice and working with new and existing communities. It is desirable that they will have experience of working on projects delivered by developers through s106 funding.

They will have a specialism in projects involving ecology, horticulture and/or landscape and a strong interest in environmental issues, including sustainability and recycling.

The Commissioned Artist(s) will be well organised, with excellent communication skills. They will also have a good understanding of access, equalities and social inclusion issues.

Artists should have public liability insurance to a minimum value of £5 million and a current enhanced CRB check.

Project Management

There will be a project group consisting of representatives from Cotswold Homes and South Gloucestershire Council. Day to day liaison will be with Terri Hayes Pugh, Sales Manager for Cotswold Homes.

Budget

There is a total budget of £10,000 for the project to include all associated costs including but not limited to artists fees and expenses, materials and installation and documentation and evaluation. If required, maintenance costs and any other fees or expenses such as structural engineering fees should also be covered by the budget.

Time scales and selection process

Closing date for submission of expressions of interest: Monday 21 April, 2014.

Interviews with artists: w/c Monday 5 May 2014

A project timetable will be agreed with the artist on selection. Building has commenced on-site and it is anticipated that the development will be completed by Easter 2015.

Expressions of Interest and application process

Interested artists should email expressions of interest to alison.catlin@southglos.gov.uk by Monday 21 April, 2014.

Please note that emails of over 10MB will be delayed by the Council's delivery system. We would advise you to compress files or send them as a zip file if sending large documents or images.

Applications should include:

- A copy of your cv
- Some examples of your work – preferably which show work in a similar context.
- A short statement about why you think you are suitable for this project
- An outline of how you would approach it and your initial ideas
- Details of 2 referees relating to public art projects
- An outline budget for the project

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview and will have the opportunity to visit the site prior to interview.

Appendix 1

Site Location Plan



