

Conningbrook Lakes – Public Art Commissions



DWELL



An Artist Brief January 2018

Expressions of Interest

Development Partners: Chartway Group Limited,
Latimer Developments Limited and Ashford Borough Council



Background and Context

In October 2014 full planning consent was granted for the creation of a major leisure and recreation facility at Conningbrook Lakes together with 300 new market homes of a contemporary design. The former Conningbrook quarry lies within 2 km east of Ashford Town Centre and forms part of a green route forming a linear park system running through Ashford town centre and linking existing and proposed development areas. The opportunity to build on the existing leisure facilities at the Julie Rose Stadium in the creation of a country park will facilitate a range of water-based sports and other new activities through the new park area to include an additional 33 ha; a visitor centre to include a café, a pub/restaurant, farm shop and associated offices.

Latimer Developments Ltd, part of the Clarion Housing Group, in partnership with leading Kent-based developers Chartway Group Ltd (CGL), owns the 31-acre site and is working in partnership with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) to commission public art in accordance with planning permission across the new housing development and country park.

FrancisKnight have been appointed by CGL, Latimer Developments Ltd and ABC as public art consultants for Conningbrook Lakes and have produced a Public Art Strategy (PAS). (See appendix 1). The PAS has been developed as a result of extensive consultation undertaken by FrancisKnight and Lead Artist Kerry Lemon. The strategy takes a holistic approach to commissioning high quality artwork and invites artists and artist collectives to shape and transform the ways people interact in, respond to and learn about Conningbrook Lakes.

Site location

The site is located north east of Ashford Town Centre, Kent. To the southwest, it is bounded by the Willesborough Road (A2070), to the northwest by the Ashford to Canterbury Railway line and to the south and east by the River Stour. The site contains three lakes, all the result of mineral working. The large 'main' lake is divided into two connected water bodies by a spit of land and a non-accessible island towards the southern end. They are known as the Eco Lake and the North Lake. There is a smaller lake at the north east known as the 'Conservation Lake'. The Julie Rose Athletic Stadium and its carpark are located on the Willesborough Road frontage.

Approach to commissioning

When planning public art for inclusion in the development of Conningbrook Lakes and fulfilling the vision, the commissions and the appointed artists would need to refer to the following objectives as stated below. These provide the framework and methodology with which success of this vision can be measured:

- A cohesive and holistic approach to public art, considering Conningbrook Lakes as a whole connecting the country park and residential development.
- Celebrating the unique environment of Conningbrook Lakes with particular focus on the diverse and abundant wildlife.
- Creating artworks that make you view, dwell, explore and interact in a playful and joyful way.
- A collaborative commissioning process that allows for the unexpected and remarkable.

- Considering a variety of art works and approaches including temporary as well as permanent artworks, ephemeral and functional.

Research and Consultation

A series of consultations were undertaken to help inform the public art commissions. An advisory panel made up of interested stakeholders was also formed as a platform to disseminate information, gather local knowledge and invite feedback to help shape the commissions. A list of groups and individuals produced during the consultation will be available for the commissioned artists who will be encouraged to involve stakeholders where relevant.

Public Art Commissions

Conningbrook Lakes offers a new residential development complemented by a healthy, outdoor lifestyle. It establishes a new community alongside a country park. Three permanent public art commissions called VIEW, DWELL and EXPLORE have been identified for artists across the development. A fourth commission called INTERACT is a separate temporary programme for education and outreach. The appointed artist/s for INTERACT will collaborate with the commissioned artists for VIEW, DWELL and EXPLORE to deliver outdoor workshops and learning in response to any proposed artworks.

VIEW, DWELL and EXPLORE can be 'stand alone' or integrated artworks with artists invited to create a minimum of 1-3 artworks per commission, drawing attention to the landscape, habitats, flora and fauna of Conningbrook Lakes.

The briefs for VIEW, DWELL and EXPLORE are focused towards all artists being appointed at the same time (see the timetable) and working collaboratively to propose artworks that will roll out over the development phases. The appointed artists will be expected to attend a research and development residency at Conningbrook Lakes. This commission brief is for DWELL.

DWELL

Dwell reflects on living in or inhabiting space at Conningbrook and artists could explore reasons to dwell, ponder or contemplate.

Potential opportunities include:

- Bespoke timber seating
- Shelter or viewing point such as a bird hide
- Embedded artwork as part of a new activity centre

Residency Space

A temporary space will be provided for the commissioned artists to collaborate and spend time together in residence at Conningbrook Lakes. This residency is expected to last 5 consecutive days.

The permanent commission proposals will be researched and developed through this residency activity, allowing for sharing of knowledge and a holistic approach. A budget will be made available for accommodation and subsistence whilst in Ashford.

Legacy

As part of the commissioning process the artworks and activities will be documented through film and photography to create a record and provide information for press and marketing. All commissioned artists will be encouraged to use social media to share their practice.

On approval of concept proposals the artists will prepare detailed design which maybe subject to planning.

Other considerations include:

- Materials to use are not specified but should take into consideration the materials palette as described in the PAS for both the country park and residential development;
- Open to collaboration and innovation within practice;
- The artworks are intended to be permanent, of high quality and made of durable materials that are robust enough to remain on site for up to 30 years;
- Capacity to deliver to tight timescales and within budget for completion of the work and arrangements for maintenance, repair and renewal.

Key Project Timescales

Stage	Event	Date
Stage 1	Approach shortlist	4th January 2018
	Deadline for EOI	25 th January 2018
Stage 2	Interviews	1 st & 2 nd February 2018
	Artists appointed	February 2018*
Stage 3	Research and development residency at Conningbrook Lakes	February 2018*
Stage 4	Concept Proposals	March 2018*
	Costed Proposals	April 2018*
	Detailed designs	May 2018*
Stage 5	DWELL fabricated and installed	2020**
	INTERACT delivered	2018 – 2023**

*Specific dates to be confirmed

**It should be noted that due to different build programmes for the residential development and regeneration of the country park (and depending on the type and location of artwork), the timescale for fabrication and installation will be delivered in phases in accordance with the respective timeframes

Fee and Budget per Commission

The total budget for this commission is £30,000, including artist fees and expenses.

Stage 1 & 2: no fee

Stage 3: Artist fee £1,250

Stage 4: Artist fee £2,000

Stage 5: Artist fee £2,150 + £24,600 for fabrication and installation

Process

The development partners will make the selection and decisions for each of the 4 stages of the process:

STAGE 1 – Expression of Interest

Applicants are asked to submit an expression of interest. The commission is a direct approach and we will also be approaching other artists.

STAGE 2 – Interview

Three artists will be invited to interview for DWELL. The short-listed artists will be expected to make themselves available for an interview **Thursday 1st or Friday 2nd February** at **Chartway Group offices?**

STAGE 3 - Commission

The appointed artist will receive a fee of £3,250 to prepare artwork up to detailed design. Detailed design will be a collaboration with the design team and development partners. A budget of up to £24,600 (excluding VAT) will be available to fabricate artworks or enhance scheme elements.

STAGE 4 – Implementation

The appointed artist will receive a fee of £2,150 to continue working with the development partners to have a watching brief over the artworks as they are fabricated and installed on site.

Submission Process

If you wish to be considered for the DWELL commission please submit images and supporting information as follows:

- Current CV with evidence of up to 3 examples (maximum) of work in the public realm which has been undertaken in the last 5 years relevant to this brief.
- Link to website(s) profiling artistic practice with previous work relevant to this brief.
- An Expression of Interest on your experience of working in the public realm with design teams. (Maximum 2 sides of A4).
- Public Liability Insurance up to £10 million and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the value of £5,000,000

Deadline for Expressions of Interest **Thursday 25th January 2018 by 12pm**

Your Expressions of Interest can be submitted by email:

Email: office@francisknight.co.uk

Interviews will take place on **Thursday 1st or Friday 2nd February 2018** at the **Chartway Group offices?:**

If you have an enquiry or need further information you can contact:

Public Art Consultants FrancisKnight: office@francisknight.co.uk

Laura Knight: 07855 180004

Attachments: Public Art Strategy