

## **ARTISTS' BRIEF: ARTWORK FOR WOODLAND PARK**

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is seeking expressions of interest from artists to create artwork within an area of ancient woodland in Chineham, to the north east of Basingstoke. Artwork will be used to enhance an existing trail (<http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/leisure/getactive/walking/selfguided.htm> - self-guided walk 4) and provide interest to local residents and those walking through the site.

Engagement with the community will form a key part of the process and the chosen artists will be expected to include a complementary education/learning programme of activities and/or workshops suitable for a range of ages and interests.

### **Background Information**

The woodland, known as Great Binfields Copse, comprises several hectares of semi-natural ancient woodland between the A33 and Chineham District Centre. The site was once part of extensive ancient woodlands and is likely to be a remnant of the Forest of Eversley. The site is relatively rich in flora and fauna, including beech, ash and hornbeam trees, woodland flowers (such as bluebells and common-spotted orchids), butterflies and insects and woodland birds (such as woodpeckers).

In recent years the Binfields area has undergone significant development with the building of more than 300 new dwellings, an extension to a hotel and the creation of a new primary school, which abuts the site.

### **Key requirements of the project**

- A series of artworks will be required which form a trail through the space. It is expected that the artworks will be located within clearings adjacent to natural pathways, although these could also be incorporated into trees/canopies in some way. Advice will be taken from Council Tree Officers. Appropriate sites can be identified in due course.
- Both permanent and semi-permanent artworks can be considered, although it is expected that work will be on-site for a reasonable duration.
- Given the nature of the site it is expected that natural and organic materials are likely to be most suitable. However, recycled materials may also be considered.
- Proposals should reflect the site clearly and draw upon the unique features of the area; for example using topography, local history of the area, wildlife as sources of inspiration.
- The completed work must be safe for members of the public, be robust/vandal-proof and not require any exceptional ongoing maintenance.

### **Consultation**

- The chosen artists will be expected to consult and work closely with the local community to inform the design of the final artwork/s. This may include the local primary school, the parish council and Conservation

Volunteers as appropriate. Learning opportunities and involvement from a range of ages and interests is desirable.

- The chosen artists will also work closely with Council Officers and Members as appropriate.

### **Artist Requirements**

- Applicants should be registered as self-employed.
- Applicants should have public liability insurance of up to £5,000,000.
- A CRB check will also be required.
- We would be particularly interested in receiving submissions artists from the south-east region.

### **Budget**

Up to £35,000 is available to include all costs associated with the project. It is likely that this sum will be shared between a range of artists, with different proposals.

### **Timescale**

Artists are invited to make a submission to include:

- a brief outline of ideas and methodology to be employed
- a preliminary budget, setting out fees and materials costs and education programme separately
- a CV
- evidence of previous work

The deadline for submission is 5pm on Monday 14 July.

Short listed artists will be contacted and invited to interview on 28 July with the intention of commissioning the artists by Monday 11 August.

The project will commence in mid September 2008 and work will need to be completed and installed by end of March 2009.

### **Contact**

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