

**Planning application for Public Artwork on Knollbeck Lane  
September 2009  
Appendix 2 Consultation.**

Background

This application is for an artwork to be installed as part of the Gateway Improvement Programme and utilising funding from the Housing Market Renewal Area (HMRA) Programme.

The work has been managed by the Implementation team, Andy Newton and Lesley Shepherd, working with colleagues in the Council's Community Arts Service and comprising the introduction of a public art feature onto a retaining wall on Knollbeck Lane.

The proposed feature comprises 6 ribbon shapes affixed to the wall, made from stainless steel and incorporating images generated with local residents, young people and school children about local heritage features and their aspirations. The ribbons are preceded and followed by cart-wheeling figures based on local young people, to symbolize moving energetically and with hope from the past into the future. The end figure is framed within a continuation of the metal ribbon, on the grassy knoll next to the wall, and will be surrounded by landscaping works.

The work has been conducted with consultation and collaboration with the local community throughout.

Consultation

The project began with a consultation / display at a Christmas open event at the local nearby Fire Station at which was very well attended and from which a list of local interested people was collected. A Steering Group of local people, including local Councillors, undertook to oversee the work, and formed the interview panel who selected the artists to create the work.

The artist they selected was Van Nong, working with Chrysalis Arts, who then gave a presentation at the Parish Hall about their work and to generate interest in taking part in a workshop. All households in the area were leafleted with information about this local consultation event, and about workshops to contribute to the work.

Van Nong then conducted research and design workshops with various community groups, at Cortonwood Comeback Centre, Bierlow Close Community Room and the Parish Hall, including with the Luncheon club and with local young people. In June he led two workshops with local schools Brampton Ellis and Brampton Cortonwood Infants. He also had displays to consult with a variety of other groups, including the Dancing group and a Slimming Club at the Parish Hall.

Topics that stimulated local interest ranged from the history of the Ellis family, local landscape and geology, heritage, local agriculture and inventions, through to leisure activities today and remembering traditional community

seaside outings. There was also an interest in using high quality materials to complement recent works in the area.

In July Van took a display of the possible options for the work to the Steering Group and to the Parish Council. Two options for consultation were chosen. Van then worked up these options into a model and display, and the options were displayed in Cortonwood Comeback Centre, Bierlow Close Community Room and the Parish Hall. An article was printed in the Parish Magazine.

The displays included stickers to vote for the preferred option, and comments forms if people wished to make a comment or contribute to the design. The design has since been extended to include more work from the community, and to cover more of the wall space and conform to the original brief. No adverse comments were received.

All households were leafleted about the consultation, and Van and members of Rotherham MBC attended publicised sessions at each venue to be on hand to answer questions. Van also visited local people living close to the work and spoke to people in the street.

The favoured option from the consultation was then taken back to the Steering Group and Parish Council to approve to go forward to apply for planning permission.