

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Epping Forest and Commons	09 09 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Proposal for art installation at Leyton Green (SEF 32/19)	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Colin Buttery - Director of Open Spaces	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jacqueline Eggleston - Head of Visitor Services	

### Summary

Your Committee is asked to consider a proposal by the London Borough of Waltham Forest for a light-based art installation on an outlier of Forest Land at Leyton Green. The construction and installation costs of £120,000 will be entirely funded by the Mayor of London and the London Borough of Waltham Forest and will form part of the legacy of the London Borough of Culture 'Welcome to the Forest' celebrations of 2019. The installation will be semi-permanent and will remain in place for a minimum of five years.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- i. Approve the provision of a licence to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for the use of land at Leyton Green for a semi-permanent art installation.
- ii. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and Director of Open Spaces with the City Surveyor, to complete final negotiations and agreement of contractual terms; taking in to account the specific environmental considerations and constraints in relation to the use of this land.
- iii. Authorise the Comptroller & City Solicitor to enter into the necessary licence on such terms as are approved under (ii) above.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) became the first ever London Borough of Culture in 2019.

2. Throughout the year, the City of London Corporation has been key supporters of the initiative, in particular, through hosting several events in Epping Forest.
3. The appropriately named Leyton Green (B159) Road has two outliers of Forest Land - Knotts Green located at the junction with Lea Bridge Road (A104) and Leyton Green located at the junction with Leyton High Road (A112).
4. Leyton Green is a small area of public open space, surrounded by busy roads and consisting of formal brick planting beds, mown grass and standard trees.
5. The Green is entirely surrounded by urban streets and is a location for several bus stops associated with the adjacent bus garage.
6. The Green's high standard of horticultural maintenance is funded through a care and maintenance agreement with the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

### **Current Position**

7. One of the legacy proposals for the 2019 London Borough of Culture is the installation of a new piece of public artwork. The intention behind the installation of the artwork is to create a beautiful and impactful artwork that will enhance and become an icon for wider regeneration initiatives.
8. LBWF has identified the high-profile Leyton Green as a potential location for the artwork and is seeking your Committee's approval for the installation of a sculpture by the artist Jason Bruges, winner of the Light Art Project of the Year at the Lighting Design Awards 2017.

### **Options**

9. Your Committee are asked to consider two options:

- 9.1 **Option 1.** To agree to the proposals for a light -based art installation at Leyton Green. The whole life costs of the project will be met by LBWF. The lifespan of the sculpture will be 5 years initially and would be reviewed at this point.

The sculpture will provide a legacy for the London Borough of Culture. It will not detract from the 'natural aspect' of this area of Forest land which is already highly urbanised.

- 9.2 **Option 2.** Do not approve the proposed installation. This would prevent LBWF from placing the sculpture in this location requiring the Local authority to locate another suitable visible and accessible location or abandoning the project.

## **Proposals**

10. LBWF have proposed a light-based art installation to be situated on Leyton Green triangle in Leytonstone. The land at Leyton Green is part of Epping Forest but is cared for under a care and maintenance agreement with LBWF.
11. An outline proposal from the artist, Jason Bruges, with drawings, is attached at Appendix 1. Please note that the proposal is an indication – the work is designed to be site specific so the proposal indicates design principles, but the final artwork may be different to the drawings shown on the proposal.
12. Jason Bruges Studio is internationally renowned for producing innovative installations, interventions and ground-breaking works. This practice involves creating interactive spaces and surfaces that sit between the world of architecture, site specific installation art and interaction design. Jason Bruges trained as an architect at Oxford Brookes University and the Bartlett School of Architecture, (UCL). He worked with Foster + Partners for three years before moving to Imagination to become a Senior Interaction Designer. In 2002 Jason set up his own practice and now works with a talented team of people to develop and deliver interactive projects worldwide. The studio comprises of an experienced team of architects, engineers, industrial designers and computational designers as well as specialists in electronics, programming and project management.
13. The design will be developed specifically for the site. Jason Bruges Studio are internationally renowned for their public art and design projects and will ensure that all materials selected and used for fabrication of the work are suitable for the installation of a semi – permanent artwork in the public realm.
14. The artwork is being designed specifically for the site and in partnership with LBWF regeneration team priorities. LBWF will provide information about the proposed work and undertake all consultation and correspondence with the local community including setting up an open day where the designs can be viewed in nearby Market Parade.
15. The work will enhance the local area by creating a beautiful site-specific artwork that responds to the forest, leaf swirl patterns and the work of William Morris to create high quality contemporary sculpture for Leyton Green that will become a visual marker and icon for the local area and community

## **Location** (see map and image in Appendix 2)

16. The proposed location will be in the middle of Leyton Green. The Green is in the centre of an urban residential and commercial area.
17. The installation will take up an area of between 5-10sqm.

## **Safety**

17. Installation methodology will be dependent on the final agreed design however a full method statement and RAMS will be produced for the finished design. An indicative RAMS and installation method statement is attached in appendix 3.
18. Public liability insurance will be indemnified by LBWF to the satisfaction of the City of London.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

18. Hosting a semi -permanent art installation will support Corporate Business Plan aims, in particular:

### **To support a thriving economy**

- We are a global hub for innovation in finance and professional services, commerce and culture.

### **Shape outstanding environments**

- We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration

19. It will also deliver the Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan top line objectives:

- A. Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.
- B. Spaces enrich people's lives.

## **Environmental Implications**

20. The location for the art installation is a sterile location with little or no ecological value.
21. The lighting of the art installation is not considered significant as the location is already well lit and has road noise.

## **Legal**

22. The art installation will require planning permission which will be sought from LBWF and will be installed under the Council's General Permitted Development Powers. Therefore, the permission to use the land will be conditional on planning permission and any other relevant consents being obtained.
23. Subject to the provisions of the Epping Forest Act 1878 the Conservators have a duty to keep Epping Forest unbuilt on as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public and to preserve its natural aspect as far as possible. It is considered that permitting the art installation for an initial period of 5 years, subject to review thereafter, in this location would enhance this particular area of open space consistent with its use for public recreation and enjoyment and not unduly detract from the natural aspect and that therefore the grant of a licence in

this particular case would be consistent with the Conservators' duties and powers under the Act.

24. The grant of a licence or licence agreement with LBWF, so far as the law allows, proposes to cover liability and financial arrangements.
25. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Officers have been asked to remind Members that decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity and within their powers (i.e. consistent with the charity's objects and powers).

### **Financial**

26. All costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, promotion, insurance, services, decommissioning and reinstatement will be met in full by LBWF. The total cost of the artwork development and installation is £120,000 which is being funded by LBWF through Great Places and Section 106 funding. This includes design, fabrication, installation and maintenance for a minimum 5- year period.
27. Any agreement to the proposal will dependent on a written undertaking from LBWF that the whole life costs including decommissioning and reinstatement are met in full and on time by LBWF.

### **Reputational**

28. Approval of the proposal will demonstrate the City Corporation's ongoing support of LBWF as London Borough of Culture 2019 and help to enhance the area for the benefit of the local community.
29. The installation of the public art may be considered a precedent for future proposals. However, any future proposals must be considered specifically in relation to the Conservators' statutory functions in respect of Epping Forest and the requirement to act in the best interests of the charity and are unlikely to be recommended in the majority of the Forest.

### **Property**

30. The proposed installation on the Forest should be governed by suitable licence terms to ensure that the City Corporation is suitably indemnified and that consent to use represents best value according to the charitable operating requirements.

### **Equality**

31. LBWF has completed an equalities screening process for all its commissions.

### **Conclusion**

32. The installation of the public art will be conditional on obtaining planning permission. The whole life costs of the installation will be met by LBWF. The proposals meet local regeneration aims and do not unduly detract from the 'natural aspect'.

**Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Artistic proposal
- Appendix 2 - Location

**Jacqueline Eggleston**

Head of Visitor Services

T: 020 8532 5315

Email: [jacqueline.eggleston@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jacqueline.eggleston@cityoflondon.gov.uk)