

Full Council

Title:	Public Art Thame
Date:	16 July 2024
Contact Officer:	Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve the signing and sealing of a legal deed with South Oxfordshire District Council to receive the Section 106 funding that will enable completion of the approved 'Art Leading Wayfinding Project'.

Background

2. Thame has been awarded Public Arts Funding through Section 106 agreements in light of new developments in the Town. Following the creation of a Public Art Working Group (PAWG) and the following adoption of a Public Art strategy in 2018, the 'Art Leading Wayfinding' project was started.
3. In 2021 a competitive interview process identified lead artist – Nicola Henshaw. In August 2021¹ approval was given to draw down S106 funding to deliver the project.
4. Following various community engagement activities, Nicola Henshaw identified 3 distinct art trails that would support the wayfinding needs of the town and went on to design 2 of these Trails. Designs were approved by PAWG, as per the Public Art Strategy. On 1st March 2022 Full Council approved the locations proposed for the artwork included the first trail, and on 21st March 2023 NPCC approved the locations proposed for the artwork included in the second trail.
5. The costs of the fabrication and installation phase of Trail 1 & Trail 2 was more expensive than expected due to a variety of factors outlined to Full Council in a report on 28th February 2024. This report therefore asked for approval for further Section 106 funding to the value of £40,719.10 to be drawn down to complete the two trails.
6. The minutes of this meeting resolved

'The signing of relevant legal agreements by the Town Clerk to allow the funding drawdown of both phase 1 and Phase 2 as outlined in section 14.1 & 14.2 of the report to meet the completion of the approved 'Art Leading Wayfinding' Project be approved'.

7. Following this approval Section 106 funding was applied for, and granted by SODC, subject to planning permission. Planning permission has now been granted. However, we have recently received notice from the SODC legal team that this resolution is not correct and not in line with our Standing Orders. Therefore, we are resubmitting the recommendation to sign and seal the legal deed with SODC to ensure that it is acceptable to them.

Recommendation:

- i) That in line with Standing Order 20, the Town Council authorises the Proper Officer, with two members of the council as witnesses, to sign and seal the legal deed with South Oxfordshire District Council to receive the Section 106 funding that will enable completion of the approved 'Art Leading Wayfinding Project'.***

¹ Full Council 18. 210810