

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION BRIEF | Former Saltergate Social Club, 125 Saltergate, Chesterfield

A-Rock Construction wish to commission a permanent piece of public art as part of the redevelopment of the former Saltergate Social Club on Saltergate, Chesterfield.

A-Rock Construction are looking to appoint a professional artist with experience of working in the public realm - someone who creates exciting, contemporary work, has a proven track record and is familiar with issues surrounding planning permission, installation considerations, maintenance and health and safety considerations etc.

The aim is to commission work that is located at the front of the site, is visible from the public street and which enhances the setting and experience of the development and the streetscene.

The work must be of the highest quality and appropriate for the site. We are open to functional or non-functional sculptural or land based work that can help enhance the identity of the site and add delight to the setting of the development. The art work(s) should encourage people to reflect on the past use and history of the location as the former Cheshire salt trade route and/or the former Social Clubs association with Chesterfield Football Clubs Saltergate ground (now redeveloped and the ground relocated to the Proact Stadium).

Selection Criteria:

- Quality of previous commissions (50%)
- Clarity of concept and quality of approach and suggested methodology for the project (including budget considerations and timescales) (50%)

An artist will be selected based on this criteria and will then be tasked with developing a design to be installed by the end of March 2020.

Project background

The site has planning permission to be redeveloped as 10 flats with two small commercial units on ground floor (ref. CHE/15/00195/FUL). The development is in the form of an 'L' shaped building with a modest forecourt to be provided behind a rebuilt boundary wall with pedestrian entrances. Details of the approved development can be found on the Chesterfield Borough Council Website: <https://publicaccess.chesterfield.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=NMHDZJEP00M00&activeTab=summary>

A legal agreement forms part of the planning permission and this secured £8000.00 towards the provision of public art as part of the development.

The site was formerly the Social Club associated with the now relocated Chesterfield Football Club, which itself was redeveloped by Barratt Homes between 2012-2014. Under that development an artwork commemorating the site of the former football club was provided in the public space situated to the west of this site.

Given the existence of an artwork already celebrating the home of the towns football club, an alternative approach is encouraged, although a suitable proposal related to the football clubs history would not be ruled out.

Fees

The overall budget is therefore **(£8000.00 ex. Vat)**. This must cover all costs including artist fees, materials and fabrication of the public art works. It will also cover the cost of any time required to undertake research such as the history of the site/area. It does not cover the installation on site, which is to be undertaken separately by A-Rock Construction or its appointed contractor.

Contract

The appointed artist will be provided with an order from A-Rock Construction and will also be required to enter into an appropriate contract to be confirmed.

Purpose

The aim is to enhance the setting of the site which is to be redeveloped for 10 flats and create a positive addition to the streetscene of Saltergate as a gateway into Chesterfield town centre from the west.

This could be achieved in a number of ways. The artwork could encourage people to reflect on and engage with the name of Saltergate and its past association as the principal route used by the Cheshire to Chesterfield salt trade believed to date from at least the 12th Century. Currently, there is nothing to commemorate or recognise this aspect of the towns history and the design could celebrate this historic trade route that gave its name to one of Chesterfield best know roads.

Alternatively, the proposal could relate to the connection between the former Social Club and the football club, although it should be noted that an artwork celebrating the former home of Chesterfield Football Club already exists nearby.

The overall aim of the project is to:

- mark this as the historic salt trade route from Cheshire to Chesterfield to celebrate this little known aspect of the towns heritage or the recognise the connection between the former Social Club and Chesterfield Football Club;
- create a recognisable artwork on the site frontage that adds to the interest and appearance of the Saltergate streetscene; and
- enhance the entrance into to the development by providing an artwork that enriches the approach into the site and the experience of residents and visitors as well as views from the street.

Concept

The concept for the artwork is twofold:

1. To create an attractive physical feature that fulfills the purpose described above.
2. To complement the setting of the new development.

The Artwork

The space at the front of the site is relatively small and our initial thoughts for this work are to create an artwork in the form of a new boundary railing and/or gateway at the main pedestrian entrance and along the site frontage with Saltergate, which will reflect the salt trade history that gave Saltergate its name. However, suitable alternative proposals will also be given consideration.

In order that the artwork is maintained in situ and good condition in perpetuity, the artist is required to provide aftercare/maintenance guidelines to A-Rock Construction and/or their successors in title.

Person specification

A-Rock Construction are looking for a committed, enthusiastic artist who has experience in the field of art in the public realm and is able to demonstrate a track record for producing durable and engaging work in the landscape.

Essential

The work, given its exposed location, must be safe, robust, durable and require minimum maintenance.

Constraints

The location earmarked for the artwork is a modest sized area along the frontage that forms a pedestrian entrance and forecourt to the site from Saltergate. Key constraints to be taken into account are summarized below.

Size, Scale and Accessibility

The space is modest in size and therefore the piece should be proportionate to the location and have regard to the relationship with the adjacent properties.

The site identified on the site plan is shown for indicative purposes and alternative positions for any artwork would be considered, for example through incorporation of artworks into the surface of the space, subject to suitability and fulfilling the requirements of the brief. However, it would be important to ensure that public access through the space is maintained to provide for safe and convenient pedestrian movement and general access.

Levels

Any proposals must have regard to levels changes and edges, ensuring that a safe environment is maintained.

Public Safety and Amenity

The nature of the space is that of a boundary edge against a public street, a pedestrian link into the site and a modest forecourt that provides a setting to the proposed development. Any installation must be safe, robust and ensure reasonable pedestrian movement is maintained through the space.

Given the modest size of the space, together with its location in close proximity to residential properties and a busy road it is essential that the residential amenity of neighbouring residents is maintained and proposals avoid distraction to road users

Process and Project Stakeholders:

The appointment of an artist and this commission shall be managed by A-Rock Construction.

A-Rock Construction will liaise with Chesterfield Borough Council in respect of finalising the artist brief, jointly reviewing submissions and shortlisting and interviewing candidates.

The final selection will be agreed with the Planning Sub-Committee prior to an appointment being made.

Once appointed the artist will liaise with A-Rock Construction in the development and finalising of the proposed artwork and these shall be agreed with Chesterfield Borough Council prior to fabrication and installation.

Stakeholder Contacts:

A-Rock Construction

Ruth Harvey | A-Rock Construction

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Chesterfield Borough Council

Philip Smith | Senior Urban Design Officer, Chesterfield Borough Council

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Dates and Deadlines

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| 1st July 2019 | Submission of tender | |
| 8th July 2019 | Selection of artists shortlisted for interview | |
| W/C 15th July 2019 | Interviews for shortlisted candidates/appointment | |
| W/C 29th July | Undertake research | |
| October 2019 | Design proposals presented to Project team | |
| | Modification of proposals, obtain manufacturing and installation quotes | |
| | Commission fabrication | |
| November 2019 – March 2020 | Fabrication/production/Potential Installation | |
| April 2020 | Launch event | |

Requirements and Deadline

Submissions must be received by **01/07/19 no later than 5pm.**

This is a two stage process comprising:

1. A written submission (see Submission Requirements below), from which a shortlist of candidates will be selected for interview.
2. An interview for shortlisted candidates to take place during the **Week 15th July 2019.** Candidates will need to be available to attend the interview during this week.

Submission Requirements:

To fulfil the application requirements, the following information is required:

- CV, including qualifications and list of previous commissions.
- Minimum of 2 recent examples of your work along with contact details of two referees. The artist is encouraged to use examples which could have resonance with this commission in terms of scale and type of sculpture. For example, where an artwork makes reference to a former site use.
- Outline proposal (2 sides of A4 max.) describing how you would meet the needs of this brief and your approach/methodology to this project. An initial design concept/idea to demonstrate the type of artwork that you feel would be appropriate to the site.
- Confirmation that you have availability to meet the timescales outlined in the brief.

Please send an electronic copy by email to:

rockie@a-rockconstruction.com