

## **Richard Thornton Sculpture**

### **Artist's Statement and approach**

- I design, make and manage the installation of, all of my public work. I prefer to directly make my pieces to ensure the quality of the work and I also find that this gives me the necessary flexibility to control costs and timing for the project. Crucially, it also enables me to build into my pieces longevity, safety and resilience appropriate to the environment in which they will be placed. I would expect my work to have a life of at least 50 years and to need minimum maintenance – visual inspection and power washing.
- I am particularly interested in using public art to create a sense of place and pride in familiar spaces.
- As a self-employed Public Artist/sculptor I hold all the appropriate levels of Public Liability and other insurances necessary to undertake public projects. I work with a small team of people, as appropriate, skilled in community work; project/budget management and fine art skills to ensure that we can meet the needs of complex projects.
- Currently based in the East Midlands but working across the UK I am available to work within your currently outlined project timetable with sufficient flexibility to meet your requirements as they develop.
- The materials I work with are flexible in construction but robust in their environment. Stainless steel, given its flexibility, reflectiveness and robustness would be the material that I would normally design in for a high-usage, relatively exposed site such as this however I would incorporate other materials, such as bronze or copper, for adding small details and producing smaller complimentary pieces that add interest and intrigue to the overall space. Etching or laser cutting the steel also adds detail.
- Paramount to my design approach would be to ensure that pieces are robust and have low maintenance needs; are safe for their intended use and resist vandalism.

### **The attached Powerpoint illustrates various aspects of my work relevant to your project:**

Watermead, Thurmaston near Leicester

A new build mixed housing development - entrance piece, signage, wall pieces and seating

- All the work is derived from a single, simple shape to give a point of recognition and was located so as to integrate the artwork through the site
- Community workshops resulted in the text used on the seating

Blackburn with Darwen Housing development

A series of markers, seating and street furniture

- This major housing redevelopment has a high proportion of Muslim residents which the housing association wanted to engage to promote a stronger sense of place and ownership

- Workshops were undertaken in a broad range of locations from the Mosque to the health centre to ensure that a broad range of residents were involved

#### Carterton Square, West Oxfordshire

- Focal point for a new housing development and community centre
- An elegant, up-right piece designed to be seen both by passing traffic and visitors to the shops and community facilities

#### New Town Square sculpture, Cambourne, Cambridge

- Major, new housing development in a rural location required a central focus for its new town centre
- Theme of flight developed because of local connections with the RAF and aircraft development
- Local community have chosen the sculpture as the focus for their Remembrance Day ceremonies

#### Birkenhead Leisure centre

- Entrance piece for the centre to reflect its activities
- A major town centre redevelopment, the sculpture had to be eye-catching but not too competitive with the adjoining Warner's cinema

### **Budget**

Thurmaston and Blackburn with Darwen are the projects most similar to you own and cost £80,000 and £70,000 each in total (the full projects are not illustrated on the slides). The small-scale entrance sculptures for Witham and Ruston schools and Bio-City cost approximately £20,000 each. Design, making, liaison and transport/installation costs are included in these budgets.

My site specific work is always designed and made:

- with local, historical or environmental references
- to have a point of interest from wherever they are viewed and include elements that have impact for occasional viewers but maintain interest for those who view them regularly
- with its community of viewers in mind
- to meet planning requirements (a process I have knowledge of)
- to meet budget and timetable requirements

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