
BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 6TH December 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

**BRIERLEY HILL SUSTAINABLE ACCESS NETWORK – PUBLIC ART
STATUE REPRESENTING YOUTHFUL ENDEAVOUR**

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the committee of the plan to site a donated statue alongside the new Brierley Hill Parallel Route and seek comments on the form of plinth and the inscription to be included.

Background

2. Work on the new Parallel Route section of the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network (BHSAN) project between Church Road and Dudley Road is progressing well and there are plans to enhance the route with sympathetic landscaping and artwork.
3. Mr and Mrs J Hickinbottom of Dudley have offered to donate a life size bronze sculpture representing Youthful Endeavour to be sited alongside the route, in memory of their late son, Thomas Hickinbottom, a promising young Sportsman who posthumously won the Duncan Edwards award for his achievements in Boxing.
4. Mr Neil Wood of Stafford has completed the sculpture that now requires the creation of a suitable plinth with inscription to be installed as part of the construction of the new route in a sympathetic surrounding landscape setting.
5. A suitable site for the sculpture exists in the middle of an area already identified for landscaping on the south-east corner of the Mill St/Parallel Route junction (opposite the Concorde Market).
6. **Plans showing the intended site and sculpture will be displayed at the meeting together with two alternative plinth designs in the form of a cylinder or in the shape of the corner of a Boxing Ring, that have been prepared by the Council's Borough Artist.**
7. **The font for the suggested wording on the plaque, which would be made from a durable aluminium or bronze, is proposed as follows:**

<p style="text-align: center;">"YOUTHFUL ENDEAVOUR" by Neil Wood this statue has been sited here to inspire young people of the Borough of Dudley and was donated by Carrie and Joe Hickinbottom in loving memory of their son Thomas Hickinbottom</p>
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8. General guidance on public art is contained in the Council's Public Art Strategy (1999). Further guidance on memorials is contained in the Statues, Monuments and Memorials Policy (2005). The context for the statue in representing youthful endeavour and ambition as an example to young people in the Borough means that the donation of the sculpture does not conflict with either Policy.
9. Planning approval for the installation of the sculpture is not required as it is consistent with the planning conditions stipulated as part of the BHSAN planning process.

Finance

10. The statue has been funded by the general public including contributions from the Thorns School and from the local Boxing fraternity, and the costs of plinth and foundation together with all installation and associated landscaping costs will be funded from the Council's Capital Budget for the BHSAN.

Law

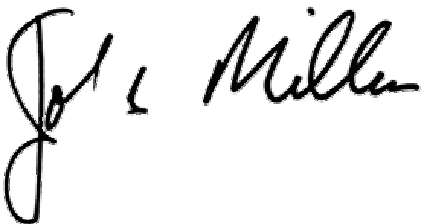
11. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or is incidental to the exercise of its powers, which in this case relates to general highway improvements under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.

Equality Impact

12. The statue represents youthful endeavour and ambition and is intended to become a positive symbol to young people in the Borough.

Recommendation

13. That the Area Committee:
 - (i) Accepts with thanks the offer of the sculpture
 - (ii) Agrees a plinth design from the two alternatives being proposed.
 - (iii) That the Committee endorse the proposed wording for the inscription on the plinth as set out in the report.



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John B. Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers -
Statues, Monuments and Memorials Policy