



Planning Statement

The Seam, County Way, Barnsley

On Behalf of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

December 2024

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Client:

Willmott Dixon

Project:

The Seam, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW

Report Title / Version:

Planning Statement Sculpture Application

nineteen47 Reference:

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Date:

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Section 1 | Introduction

- 1.1 nineteen47 Ltd. is instructed on behalf of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council ["the Applicant"] to prepare and submit a full planning application to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council ["the LPA"] for the **Installation of three new sculptures** ["the Proposed Development"] at The Seam, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW ["the Application Site"].
- 1.2 This application for full planning permission is being made under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992, due to the Proposed Development being submitted on behalf of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, who are also the determining Local Planning Authority.
- 1.3 Willmott Dixon Construction are a leading national construction company, instructed by the Council to deliver this scheme. They take pride in delivering projects and services of lasting value to the neighbourhoods they work within, with sustainability being at the forefront of development. They take an active and impactful approach to social value with a genuine purpose beyond profit, dedicating to leave a real, legacy in the community.
- 1.4 The purpose of this statement is to assess the principle of the Proposed Development in the context of physical site constraints and relevant local planning policies and national guidance. This statement will set out the substantial benefits offered by the scheme and demonstrate that the Proposed Development is acceptable in principle and that planning permission should be granted.
- 1.5 The Statement will also assess the material considerations relevant to the proposed Development, including technical matters of design, heritage impact, and safety.
- 1.6 This statement should be read and considered in conjunction with the plans, drawings and documents submitted as part of this Application. The list of supporting application documentations includes the following:
 - 2500 Location Map
 - 500 Block Plan
 - 1A 1.100 Site Plan and Elevations
 - 2A 1.50 Elevation & Plan View of Sculptures
 - 3A 1.50 - Cross-Section Elevations
 - Statement of Community Involvement
 - Heritage Impact Assessment
 - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
 - Design and Access Statement
 - Maintenance and Management Plan
 - Glare Explainer
 - Lumination Calculations – Prelim-Calculations_A3
 - Lumination Calculations – Prelim-Calculations_A4
- 1.7 This Statement is structured as follows:
 - Section 2 provides an overview of the Site and its surroundings;
 - Section 3 provides an overview of the Proposed Development;

- Section 4 outlines the relevant Planning Policy Context;
- Section 5 assesses the proposals within a planning context;
- Section 6 draws together conclusions.

1.8 This planning application is submitted within the context of a separate full planning application for the wider Seam car park comprising alterations to the existing car park and provision of new public open space and landscaping. This application aims to complement the wider improvement scheme in order to create a landmark new public space within Barnsley town centre. The main public realm application is referenced further where relevant below.

Section 2 | Site Context

- 2.1 The application site is located in The Seam (lower) public car park, within the Barnsley Town Centre, adjacent to the Transport interchange and train station. The Application Site as shown in figure 1 (outlined in red) below. The blue line indicates the extent of the separate application pending in relation to the wider public realm works referenced in paragraph 1.8 of this Statement.
- 2.2 The wider site area is bound by Old Mill Lane to the North, and the railway line to the northeast. A substantial retaining wall abuts the eastern Site boundary, with Eldon Street North and the Courthouse Pub located to the south. The west of the Site is bounded by the upper level of the car park as well as the Digital Media Centre and a further retaining wall.

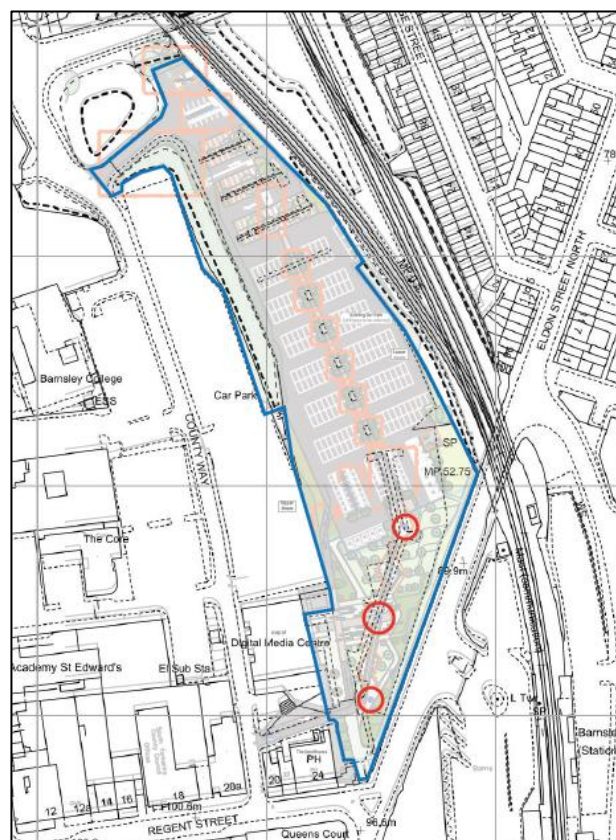


Figure 1: Aerial image of the Application Site (2500 Location Map, Getmapping)

- 2.3 Regarding topography, the Site is relatively flat, though the roads around the site do vary in levels, with the Site situating at a higher level than Eldon Street running along the southern boundary.
- 2.4 The Site does not contain any listed buildings. There are listed buildings located just south of the Site including The Courthouse which abuts the blue southern boundary, and the Queens Court Business Centre situated opposite the courthouse on Regent Street. The Site also locates next to the Regent Street, Church Street and Market Hill conservation area which will border the Southern Western Corner of the Site.

- 2.5 Vehicular access to the Site is achieved via County Way to the northwest and southwest, with pedestrian access to the Town Centre from Eldon Street North at the south of the Site. The Site also located within a 5-minute walking distance to the Bus station within Barnsley Interchange with access to multiple bus routes.

Planning History

- 2.6 The Council's Public Access records confirms that the wider Site has the following history of planning applications within the Site.
- 2.7 The LPA's Public Access records confirm relevant planning applications / decisions relating to the Site as set out below in Table 1.

Application Reference	Description	Decision
2022/0736	Hybrid planning application for a) full planning permission for a Multi-Storey Car Park (6 storeys above ground and 2 below ground) with 386no spaces, an Active Travel Hub (cafe, cycle hire / repair facility, retail, and cycle workshop space), a public realm scheme covering the entirety of the site and access, and b) outline planning permission with all matters reserved for 136 dwellings and 1887 sqm ground floor commercial space	Withdrawn
2022/0737	Re-grading of the existing pedestrian ramp to achieve a 1:21 fall (inclusive), excavation around the retaining wall and steps to the west of the ramp and replacement with Yorkstone flag surfacing, removal and replacement of existing low retaining wall with railings and finger post sign to enable the extension of the pedestrian ramp, removal and replacement of stepped access from Eldon Street North and along the eastern edge of the pedestrian ramp with new 500mm max height concrete and Yorkstone cladding retaining walls and ornamental tree planting (Listed Building Consent)	Withdrawn
2008/0313	Demolition of existing offices and formation of car park	Granted 02/04/2008

Table 1: Planning History

Section 3 | Proposed Development

- 3.1 This Application seeks full planning permission for Installation of three new sculptures at The Seam, County Way, Barnsley, S70 2JW.
- 3.2 The proposed development includes the addition of three new sculptures designed to enrich the cultural environment and the proposed new public realm (addressed under a separate application).
- 3.3 An integral design concept of the sculptures is the three White Roses of Yorkshire. The 'Yorkshire Rose' structure will create an organic flower bloom canopy with patterned steelwork that mirrors various weave threads, coal mining seams, the veins of white rose petals and stamens.
- 3.4 The plan for the sculptures consists of three Yorkshire Rose Sculptures with the central one 15 metres tall and the outer two 12 metres tall. The public art will act as a key tool in engaging visitors and users within the site, whilst adding to the cultural fabric of the wider town centre.
- 3.5 The structures will be lit up during hours of darkness. The proposal provides a playful connectivity and communication between the structures with the potential for light projection and music for events and specific times of the year.
- 3.6 The Yorkshire Rose Sculptures would be constructed out of steel, providing a sustainable proposal with a long lifecycle prospect. The structures will be fabricated in mild steel with protective coatings and durable finishes to ISO12944 standard code C2. The structures will be mainly self-cleaning with little to no extra cleaning required.
- 3.7 To ensure a high-level management and maintenance of the sculptures, there will be commitment to annual visits to the site over a 60-month period (one per year over a 5-year period) for the structural engineer and artist to inspect the three structures so that they can be maintained to the required standard. The structures at each visit will be checked for defects and cleaning requirements. Access will be via height on a cherry picker.
- 3.8 The structures are designed in such a way to prevent reaching up and climbing of the structure. Head/limb/finger traps have been designed out where structure could be accessed by public.
- 3.9 Within the context of the proximity to the Digital Media Centre (DMC) building, located west of the sculptures, , the public art provides an opportunity to demonstrate the 'art is possible' in digital creativity and reflects the ambitions of the Site to introduce new ideas, talent and technologies.
- 3.10 The proposal will build on a range on public artworks commissioned and installed in and around Barnsley, expanding on the work of the DMBC, where public artworks have been installed on the building, as well as temporary art activities being released as part of the annual Bright Nights event.
- 3.11 They would introduce a new tall structural element into the townscape that would potentially complement the existing tall townscape features such as the Town Hall tower, War Memorial, and even the Barnsley Metrodome tower. Trees would also be proposed within the new public realm space which would create further interest

Section 4 | Planning Policy Context

- 4.2 Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 4.3 The Development Plan for the Borough of Barnsley consists of the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted 3rd January 2019)
- 4.4 In addition to the Development Plan, applications should have regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (2024) and National Planning Practice Guidance, which are material considerations in any decision.

Development Plan

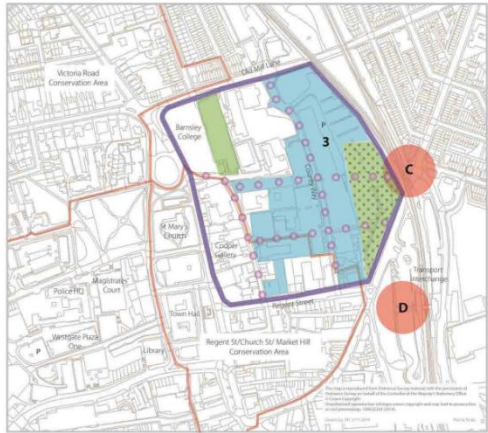
- 4.5 The Development Plan policies relevant to the determination of the application are provided below.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan

Policy No.	Topic	Comments
SD1	Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development	Indicates a positive approach will be taken with proposals that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development which has an overall aim to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.
GD1	General Development	Outlines proposals for development will be approved if they include landscaping to provide a high-quality setting for buildings, incorporating existing landscape features and ensuring that plant species and the way they are planted, hard surfaces, boundary treatments and other features appropriately reflect, protect and improve the character of the local landscape.
D1	High Quality Design and Place Making	Addresses that within the design principles development is expected to be of high-quality design alongside respecting reinforcing the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>landscape character and green infrastructure assets.</i> - <i>Views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality.</i> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The developments design and layout should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Contribute to place making and be of high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment</i> - <i>Complement and enhance the character and setting of distinctive places, including Barnsley Town Centre, Penistone, rural villages and Conservation Areas;</i> - <i>Help to transform the character of physical environments that have become run down and are lacking in distinctiveness;</i> - <i>Provide an accessible and inclusive environment for the users of individual buildings and surrounding spaces;</i> - <i>Provide clear and obvious connections to the surrounding street and pedestrian network;</i> - <i>Ensure ease of movement and legibility for all users, ensure overlooking of streets, spaces and pedestrian routes through the arrangement and orientation of buildings and the location of entrances;</i> - <i>Promote safe, secure environments and access routes with priority for pedestrians and cyclists;</i> - <i>Create clear distinctions between public and private spaces;</i> - <i>Display architectural quality and express proposed uses through its composition, scale, form, proportions and arrangement of materials, colours and details;</i> - <i>Make the best use of high quality materials;</i> - <i>Include a comprehensive and high quality scheme for hard and soft landscaping; and</i> - <i>Provide high quality public realm.</i> <p>Regarding placemaking, development should also aim in making positive contributions for a successful place by achieving qualities such as character, legibility, permeability and vitality.</p>
LC1	Landscape Character	Specifies development is expected to retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the

		location of development with regard to its individual local character.
HE1	The Historic Environment	Expresses developments will be positively encouraged which help with the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of Barnsley's historic environment. Proposals will be supported which conserve and enhance the significance and setting of the borough's heritage assets particularly those elements which contribute most to the distinctive character and sense of place. These elements and assets include the three town centre conservation areas. Furthermore, proposals are supported which preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area.
HE2	Heritage Statements and general application procedures	States the importance of known heritage assets or sites with an emphasis on sufficient detailed plans and drawings enabling an assessment to be made of the impact of the development upon the significance of any heritage assets including a conservation area or listed buildings.
TC1	Town Centres	States support is provided to maintaining and enhancing the vitality and viability of the hierarchy of centres with Barnsley Town Centre being the dominant town centre in the borough. Town centre developments are recommended to be appropriate to the scale, role, function and character of the centre in which they are located.
BTC3	Public Spaces	highlights the requirement for new development to make a positive contribution to public spaces through its design, siting and use of materials. The creation of new public spaces must be made in accordance with the Barnsley town Centre Public Spaces Strategy.
BTC4	Improving Public Spaces	States new developments of community uses over 1000 square metres must include proposals to improve public spaces.
BTC7	Gateways	States development on or next to the gateways identified on Inset Map 2 must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a strong distinctive visual gateway to the town centre and a sense of arrival; - Be of high quality design and use the best quality materials; - Be designed to welcome people into the town centre and create active street frontages; - Not detract from important views or skylines; - Include good pedestrian links through the site and to the town centre; - Take the opportunity to create distinctive new landmark buildings;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve public spaces in accordance with the Barnsley Town Centre Public Spaces Strategy; and - Creating linkages to other areas adjacent to the town centre.
BTC21	Courthouse Campus	Identifies certain types of development, including a new public park and improved public spaces will be allowed in the Courthouse Campus District.
BTC22	Development Site 3 - Courthouse Campus	<p>Seeks that development within the Courthouse Campus area as shown below in figure 2 is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include the creation of a new public open space; - Provide improvements to pedestrian links and public spaces; and - Conserve or enhance the Conservation Area.  <p>The map, titled 'The Courthouse Campus District', shows a central area outlined in purple. Within this area, a blue-shaded region is labeled '3'. To the west of this area is a green-shaded region labeled 'A'. To the east, there are two red-shaded circular areas labeled 'C' and 'D'. The map also shows various streets, including Victoria Road, St Mary's Church, and Regent St/Church St/Market Hill. Conservation areas are indicated by orange lines, and parking areas by 'P'.</p> <p>Figure 2 - Extract from Courthouse Campus Masterplan</p>
G11	Green Infrastructure	<p>Sets out the council will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected functional green infrastructure assets. This will result in Green Infrastructure assets that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides attractive environments where people want to live, work, learn, play, visit and invest;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meets the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions; - Enhances the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors; Helps to meet the challenge of climate change; - Enhances biodiversity and landscape character; - Improves opportunities for recreation and tourism; - Respects local distinctiveness and historical and cultural heritage; - Maximises potential economic and social benefits; and - Secures and improves linkages between green and blue spaces
GS1	Green Space	Addresses the aim for the Council to work with partners to improve existing green space in order to meet the Green Space Strategy.
CC2	Sustainable Design and Construction	Identifies that development is expected to minimise resource and energy consumption through the inclusion of sustainable design and construction features.
I2	Educational and Community Facilities	Emphasises the support for the provision of educational facilities and other community facilities including meeting places and should be located centrally which can be accessed by walking, cycling and public transport.

Other Material Considerations

The National Planning Policy Framework (2023)

4.6 The Framework advises that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraph 7).

4.7 Paragraph 8 details that there are three overarching objectives to achieving sustainable development which are interdependent. These objectives are:

- an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of

present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and

- an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 4.8 Paragraph 9 details that these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.
- 4.9 Paragraph 10 states that at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, with Paragraph 11(c) detailing that, for decision-taking, this means, *'Approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay'*.
- 4.10 In terms of decision-making, paragraph 39 states:
- "Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way" and that "Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible."*
- 4.11 Section 7 *Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres* highlights the overarching *"role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation"*.
- 4.12 Section 8 *Promoting healthy and safe communities*, identifies the *"aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and beautiful buildings"* that *"promote social interaction...safe and accessible...enable and support healthy lifestyles"*. Also ensuring the need to *"provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs"* entailing planning positively for *"the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments"*.
- 4.13 Section 12 *Achieving Well-designed and Beautiful Places* states *"The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve"* including detailing on ensuring overall design, design vision, design expectations and design quality.
- 4.14 Decisions should ensure developments function adequately to the quality of the area, visually attractive, sympathetic of local character, establish or maintain a strong sense of place, sustain an appropriate mix of development including green and public space and create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible.
- 4.15 The importance of trees on the character and quality of the environment, as well as lighting also should be addressed within the design.

- 4.16 Section 16 *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* refers to the importance of applications recognising the historic environment and character. Applicants should “*describe the significance of any heritage assets affected including the contribution made by their setting*”. Paragraph 210 states that when determining applications, local authorities should take account of:

a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and

c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance

- 4.17 Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council have the following adopted SPDs which provide further specific guidance for the implementation of specific policies within the Local Plan, as considered relevant to this proposal:

SPD	Date
Sustainable Construction and Climate Change	July 2023

Section 5 | Planning Assessment

- 5.1 On the basis of the policy framework set out in the previous section and in accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Proposed Development is considered within the context of the Development Plan and national planning policy and guidance including the Framework and the PPG; along with other material considerations below.
- 5.2 The key issues in the determination of the application include the following considerations:
- Principle of Development;
 - Urban design;
 - Green Infrastructure;
 - Heritage Considerations;
 - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
 - Other Considerations.

Principle of Development

- 2.8 The Development Plan for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is set out within the Local Plan which allocates the wider Site as Town Centre: Development Site 3. The Site is identified as a 'priority Site for public space improvements' on the Local Plan Policy map and is adjacent to two 'gateway sites' of Eldon Street Railways Bridge and Transport Interchange.
- 5.3 The proposed development aligns both with the overarching aims for the town centre, as well as the policy requirement for the Site location itself.
- 5.4 The proposal ensures that the development recognises and adheres to the policies set out on a national level, following the NPPF guidance as well as the local plan policy guidance for Barnsley with further acknowledgement of the local SPDs.
- 5.5 The proposed development will see improvements and enhancements made directly to the Site, whilst providing a positive impact to the wider area which addresses Section 7 of the NPPF and Policy TC1 of the local plan, which both state the importance of town centres and the requirements to create positive places that incorporate the local community and character of the area.
- 5.6 The Site proposal includes three sculptures which will provide an enhancement to public realm within the context of the wider site proposals. The Sculptures will be located within new public open space, integrated effectively within the Biodiversity Garden, Digital Garden and Town Centre Link. This aligns with the local plan policies BTC21 and BTC22 that state development situating within Courthouse Campus of the town centre, and within Development Site 3 the courthouse campus is expected to and allowed to include new public open spaces.
- 5.7 The location of the sculptures within the public realm provides an improvement to the open space, reinforcing the positive contributions of the sculptures towards public open space adding to the provision for high quality community spaces. These core aspects of the proposal support local policies BTC3 and BTC4 on public space. BTC4 further highlights *the aim is for the town to enjoy a wide range of public art, from traditional sculptures and statues to installations that explore new media, using digital images and lights*, aligning directly with the proposal.

- 5.8 The sculptures will act as a key landmark and focal point for the town centre linked to the objective of the main application, which will provide a main gateway between the town centre, station and the Site, thus supporting local policy BTC7 which states the criteria for development next to or in gateway sites.
- 5.9 The Proposed Development offers an excellent opportunity to significantly improve the design and visual appearance of the area. The proposal provide additional enhancements within the context of the main application, which will offer a new public realm for the Site.
- 5.10 Detailing of the proposals and associated security within the wider Side in which the sculptures are located has also been considered and the design will promote healthy and accessible places for all, addressing Section 8 of the NPPF which emphasises the importance of creating healthy and safe communities. The sculptures are designed with prevention for reaching up and climbing further supporting the health and safety of the area.
- 5.11 The proposals create a positive and effective approach to improve the economic, social and environmental aims of the area and the introduction of these structure is considered to accord with the general principles and policies of the Local Plan including Policy SD1, in addition to Paragraph 10, 11 and 39 of the NPPF, which further support the approval for applications of sustainable development.

Design

- 5.12 The Design and Access Statement prepared by Circling the Square sets out the evolution of the sculpture proposals, as well as the fabrication and management and maintenance proposals.
- 5.13 The objective of the project has from the outset focused on high quality enhancement of the Application Site and the Applicants continued consultation with stakeholders has enabled the refinement of key ideas.
- 5.14 A key aspect of the design is the Yorkshire Rose, which has inspired the proposal to create Three Yorkshire Roses, that will represent Barnsley as a prominent town in Yorkshire. With the design representing different historical and current meanings to the Yorkshire Rose, from the White Rose of York, the traditional symbol of Yorkshire as well as the South Yorkshire Coat of Arms which contains the three white roses of Yorkshire. The Sculptures, depict the importance of the White Rose to Yorkshire, providing an excellent representation of the local character and context of the area through its thoughtful and detailed design.
- 5.15 The Sculptures will be constructed from steel, which will be sourced sustainability. The use of steel ensures a 100% recyclable material is used which has no downgrading in quality.
- 5.16 The detailed design includes lighting, music and connectivity elements to support events and activities that could take place in the wider SEAM public realm area, alongside the direct digital links and art inspiration with the DMC provide an excellent opportunity of community and educational prosperity, aligning with the I2 Policy from the Local Plan on education and community facilities. The sculptures are accessibility from various modes of transport and the ease of access to the site further supports the opportunity for community spaces to be centrally located and accessible.
- 5.17 The detailing and various input for proposed development supports the requirements set in the Local Plan through Policy D1 on high quality design and place making along with Policy

CC2 for sustainable design and construction. The Site further supports the guidance stated under Section 12 of the NPPF for achieving well-designed places.

Green Infrastructure

Ecology and Biodiversity

- 5.18 The proposals have been prepared within the context of the wider public realm and car parking application by the main application, which includes a Ecological Impact Assessment (ECiA) and BNG baseline report.
- 5.19 The sculptures will be well maintained and managed and ensure support the overarching approach to the biodiversity garden and further landscaped areas, which will surround the sculptures.
- 5.20 The sculptures will support the greening initiative of the new public realm and with the inclusion of plant themed sculptures in the Seam development it promotes a commitment to sustainability. Their limited footprint and materiality will result in no demonstrable impact in ecological terms.

Tree and Landscaping

- 5.21 The sculptures will be complementing the proposed tree and landscaping within the wider Seam development. This will result in an overall improvement of the character and local landscape which adheres to the requirements set out under the Policy GD1 for general development.
- 5.22 The sculptures have been carefully positioned along pedestrianised pathways. With the plant-based theme they will effectively integrate within the surrounding landscaping adding to the strong green structure of the space.
- 5.23 The greening initiative is supported, meeting the criteria for Policy GS1 ensuring it is adhering to the Green Space Strategy. Policy GI1 is further addressed by the variety and detailing of the wider Seam green infrastructure which will enhance the environment, quality of life and attractiveness of the area.

Heritage Considerations

- 5.24 A Heritage Impact Assessment has submitted as part of the application, which takes into account the impacts of the proposed development on the adjacent conservation area and neighbouring listed buildings (the Grade II Listed The Old Courthouse and the Queens Court Business Centre).
- 5.25 As set out in the Heritage Impact Assessment, the proposed scheme would enhance the town centre offer of Barnsley, improving the setting of the nearby listed buildings and will encourage public movement and the narrative of Barnsley.
- 5.26 The proposed artwork will significantly enhance the functionality, interpretation, and long-term sustainability of this key gateway site into Barnsley. This, in turn, will help secure a sustainable future for the site's heritage assets, reinforcing their role as integral components of the town's cultural and historical landscape.
- 5.27 The artworks will become a landmark providing a new and vibrant offer to Barnsley, that is fundamentally rooted in the town's history with its relation to the Yorkshire Rose. This will

bring people to the area and incorporates the appreciation of the wider heritage context for the area.

- 5.28 As such, the Heritage Statement concludes that the scheme will result in a neutral/minor positive effect on the nearby heritage assets and the development is unlikely to have any negative impact on the listed buildings and wider local character. This detailed acknowledgement and integration of the heritage assets and historic environmental character of the site demonstrate a strong support in accordance with the local plan policies HE1 and HE2.
- 5.29 A detailed approach to the design of the sculptures has been taken which acknowledges the character of the local area which has resulted in a high-quality design, meeting the requirement of local plan policy LC1 on landscape character.
- 5.30 Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is addressed in Paragraph 8 of the NPPF on achieving sustainability through environmental objectives alongside Section 16. With the proposal supported by a detailed heritage impact assessment, this reinforces the measures of protecting the surrounding conservation area and listed buildings and also highlights how the historic environment and character of the site will be enhanced through the proposed development. This aligns with the requirements for applications relating to historic environments set out within the NPPF.

Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

- 5.31 The LVIA identifies dimensionally accurate photomontage images of the proposals. The assessment also provides photographs of the existing views overlaid with rendered representations of the proposed development. Nine viewpoint locations of the proposal which had been agreed upon with the local council, were assessed.

Other Considerations

- 5.32 The proposed development recognises the importance of sustainable travel as a component within the overarching aim of sustainable development. The Site is located with excellent access to sustainable public transport methods; achieved within a 5-minute walk to the Transport Hub, providing direct access to multiple bus routes and train services. The Site also encourages safe pedestrian movements through the site. An integral aspect of the wider applications public realm is the town centre link which is to act as a gateway between the town centre, the station and the site by a means of walking or cycling.
- 5.33 The Design and Access statement highlights in detail the accessibility of the sculptures. The proposal is within the public realm of the SEAM development, which will be fully accessible for disabled and able-bodied people. Promoting 'Ensuring Access For All' has been an intrinsic part of the project. Consultation feedback has reinforced this ensuring access for disabled, sensory and neurological process difficulties, have been carefully considered and implemented.
- 5.51 Paragraph 8 of the NPPF details that there are three overarching objectives to achieving sustainable development which are interdependent. These objectives are economic; social and environmental. The proposed development addressed each of these objectives in the following way.

Economic Benefits

- 5.34 The development aims to become an attractive, community focused location with the aim of becoming a focal point of the public realm, which is viable for various uses. This will result in a higher influx of people to the area, with excellent links to the transport hub and ease of accessibility, resulting in the provision for higher footfall to the area. This in turn will provide a larger customer basis for local amenities and encourage people to the area. During the construction phase, the proposals will also support the local economy, creating jobs, sourcing materials locally and working with local based consultants in the area.

Social Benefits

- 5.35 A healthy, sociable environment offers an abundance of social benefits with the encouragement to socialise outdoors, use sustainable modes of transport and connect the community with a wide scope of events and activities that can be accommodated. The ability of the sculptures to be used as a source of lighting and presentation for shows and events, offers an excellent variety of social benefits the proposal can offer.

Environmental Benefits

- 5.36 Circling the Square, who have been instrumental in the design aspect, have an environmental policy that covers all aspects of the operation – from good housekeeping measures, recycling and working with sustainable products. All steelwork on the design has been sustainably sourced. The non-renewable resources used for the steel will not be wasted, with the steel being used forever with its potential to be recycled and endless lifecycle.
- 5.37 The overall development scheme entails hard and soft landscaping and a significant increase in the BNG by 45% demonstrates a clear environmental benefit from the site. The site adds further encouragement for sustainable modes of transport with pedestrian and cycle links alongside an excellent link to the transport hub. The environmental and high-quality design approach for places to be more climate and carbon considerate aligns with the Poll1 local plan policy and section 14 of the NPPF for climate change, pollution control and protection.

Summary

- 5.38 In conclusion, the three sculptures will offer a strong sense of belonging and attachment to Barnsley, with the aim to enhance the public realm offer to the local community has resulted in a high quality and sustainable proposal.
- 5.39 The overall SEAM approach will enhance the existing car park, with improvements in appearance, maintenance and management, alongside the addition of a new area of public realm including scope to offer a variety of purposes to the local community. This proposal will further enhance the SEAM development, raising the quality and appearance of the development.
- 5.40 In summary the Site, offers environmental, social and economic benefits, that meet the three dimensions to sustainable development as defined within the NPPF. Furthermore, the proposal has taken consideration and is in accordance with the local plan policies and further supporting SPDs. Therefore, there should be a general presumption in support of the application.

Section 6 | Conclusions

- 6.1 This Planning Statement has been prepared in support of a Full Planning application for the installation of three new sculptures at The Seam, County Way, Barnsley.
- 6.2 The application is submitted alongside a separate application for wider improvements to the existing public car park and provision of new public open space and landscaping.
- 6.3 The proposed sculptures have been designed specifically for their intended space and will enhance the proposed public realm and offer a high-level design, landmark feature reflecting the character of Barnsley, offering a statement landmark.
- 6.4 The scheme will result in an overall sustainable development which would benefit the local community, which as set out in section 5 of this report, will be in accordance with relevant Local Plan policies and NPPF guidance.
- 6.5 The potential impacts of the proposed development have been considered and appropriately addressed alongside all relevant planning policies and material considerations. The supporting documents which accompany this submission as well as the main application clearly demonstrate that the proposal presents no insurmountable constraints and have considered all the material considerations.
- 6.6 On the basis of the above the application is considered to be acceptable and it is therefore respectfully requested that planning permission be granted.



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