

Design and Access Statement for the Barnsley Mining Artwork

Introduction:

This design and access statement gives details of the proposal for an artwork to be located in the public square south of Barnsley Interchange, known as Interchange Square. The artwork commemorates the contribution of mining to the borough. Interchange Square is seen as a prominent and appropriate setting for this sculpture, being an important arrival point to the town centre, presenting an opportunity for passengers going to and from the Interchange to recognise and identify with Barnsley's past. This location also gives it the dramatic backdrop of the canopy of the Interchange building.

The artwork will stand 6.2m high— cast in bronze and patinated black. It consists of a child figure on top of a 5m column, the upper section of which is modelled to represent the Barnsley Coal seam. (Please find attached an early stage design photo of the artwork, column and child, and also a photo of a later design of the child, which was displayed as part of an exhibition of the artist's work at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park).

The process:

- Section 106 money from the Morrisons development was set aside by the Council for the commissioning of artwork to commemorate the contribution of mining to the borough. Additional funders include the NUM, local businesses and the Council.
- Following a competitive selection process award winning and internationally renowned Kenny Hunter was appointed as the artist.
- The design of the artwork has been closely worked up in conjunction with a steering group.
- The artwork was originally going to be located at a site by Barnsley Town Hall, as part of the Town Hall Gardens project. Unfortunately this wider scheme did not secure funding from Yorkshire Forward and this left the artwork without a location.
- As part of the development of the 'Barnsley Town Centre Public Spaces Strategy' the Council have looked at alternative suitable locations in the town centre. The public square to the south of the Barnsley Interchange building was suggested as a suitable site. The site is in the ownership of South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE). Attached is a photo of the square with the modern Interchange behind. The artwork will be located close to the position of the existing lamppost, which will be replaced by an alternative lighting source.
- Following an on-site meeting in November 2009, the artist favoured the new site. The other funders, SYPTTE and Councillor Newman, the Council Spokesperson for Development, also support the location. Local council members have been updated of the proposal to locate the mining artwork at this location.
- The Council are working closely with SYPTTE on a licensing agreement to place the artwork on this land.

/Contd. overleaf

Regarding the other headings requested within a design and access statement:

- **Use-** this is a public artwork located in a public square.
- **Amount-** one artwork is proposed.
- **Layout-** the location of the artwork within Interchange Square is as chosen by the artist in consultation with funders and the SYPT- located towards the south of the public square to give the artwork sufficient 'breathing space' from the dramatic backdrop of the canopy of the Barnsley Interchange building, whilst being of sufficient distance away from Kendray and Midland Streets to reduce the risk of impact with vehicles. This location will require the replacement of an existing lighting column and the provision of lighting from an alternative source. Details of this are currently being finalised.
- **Scale-** the artwork will be 6.2m tall, consisting of 1.2m high child figure on top of column of 5m (the latter of which has an external diameter of 0.8m).
- **Landscaping-** the artwork will appear 'flush' out of the ground, with paving around the base of the artwork reinstated to give a smooth level finish. A plaque will be installed within the paving. It is intended to incorporate the names of mines within the paving, subject to funding becoming available. Work is in progress on the design of this.
- **Appearance-** the artwork will be cast in bronze and patinated black. A lighting proposal is intended to specifically provide suitable illumination of the artwork whilst still maintaining statutory levels of lighting to the area. Details of this are currently being finalised.
- **Access-** the artwork is located in a publicly accessible square.

Please find attached four photos:

- Photo 1: Proposed site for the mining artwork
- Photo 2: Basic photomontage of a maquette of the mining artwork in the proposed location
- Photo 3: Early design stage maquette of the mining artwork.
- Photo 4: Later design stage maquette of the child figure