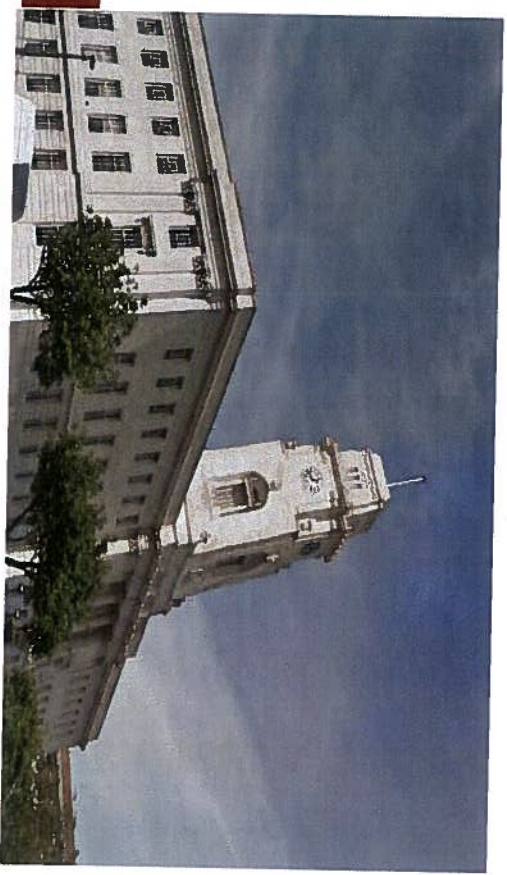




EXPERIENCE BARNSELEY – SCULPTURE PROPOSAL

Design and Access Statement.

Ref DAS1

INTRODUCTION



Barnsley Town Hall is seen as the town's major landmark building. As a striking decorated classical building, its white Portland stone façades set it apart from the local sandstone and red brick buildings. This, along with the buildings commanding position and scale characterise its special civic role in the community.

The building opened in 1933 and is a building of significant architectural quality and an appropriate setting to the events taking place within it, whether these are royal visits, formal receptions, political decision making, civil weddings or a solid and stable back drop to the war memorial. The nature of the building and the functions held within, place it at the heart of the Barnsley community and define its strong social value.

In 1986 the building was listed (Grade2) as being 'of special architectural and historic interest' and is accompanied by a number of other listed features in its immediate setting including the war memorial and the piers and railings of the memorial gardens.

CONTEXT

The public open space to the south of the building makes up the Experience Barnsley External works site. It lies within the Regent Street/Church Street/Market Hill Conservation Area close to Barnsley town centre. The building itself sits in a raised position above the town centre with the building looking out in a southeasterly direction towards the shopping area of Market Hill. The southeast corner of the Town Hall has therefore become a key view which must be respected.

The Town Hall site is in close proximity to several other listed buildings within the wider context of the conservation area including period architecture on Church Street and Regent Street, which underlines the civic importance of the area for Barnsley as a whole.



THE FUTURE

Barnsley Town Hall has recently undergone a significant package of works, which has improved the fabric and supporting infrastructure of the building to ensure it continues to be able to deliver its civic functions well into the future.

The existing public realm surrounding the building is also being improved and construction is currently underway for the 'Experience Barnsley External Works Phase 1'. In particular the southern frontage of the Town Hall was dominated by a surface car park which detracted from the overall setting of the southern elevation. Unattractive raised beds and structures at the south east corner of the site will be removed and replaced with a series of Yorkstone terraces, creating a visual 'platform' for the Town Hall in the key view from Market Hill. The proposed scheme is designed to respect and enhance the current heritage setting, creating an improved context for the Town Hall and relating it better to the overall wider space within the Regent Street/Church Street/Market Hill Conservation Area.

The proposed scheme retains the existing Yorkstone pavements and kerbs along the eastern frontage of the Town Hall and makes use of the existing green/grey granite setts. The use of new Yorkstone, bands of granite and careful use of Portland stone blocks will help tie the scheme into the immediate setting of the Town Hall and wider character of the conservation area and create an attractive open space fronting onto the south elevation of the Town Hall.



Visual of proposed new Town Hall Gardens > Eitelj/Warren Ltd

DESIGN PROPOSAL

The provision of a sculpture at the South Eastern corner of the Experience Barnsley External Works phase 1 works is designed to increase the overall impact of the scheme. The temporary structure (Crossing Vertical by Nigel Hall) is the first of many possible pieces of art that will give the desired impact and raise the profile of the whole area..

The imposing 10m high structure will be on loan from the Yorkshire Sculpture park with an agreement to replace the sculpture with other pieces of art.

