
2021/0441 – Full Application (Regulation 3)

Applicant: Andrew Lunn on behalf of BMBC – Regeneration and Culture

Proposal: 2no pieces of public art; the COVID memorial located on The Glass Works Main Square adjacent to May Day Green and the Barry Hines Memorial located at the entrance/exit to The Glass Works Boulevard on Cheapside

Address: The Glass Works Main Square/Public Realm

The application is referred to the Board as the Council is the applicant. No representations have been received.

Application History

2018/0279 - Erection of permanent structures and associated public realm works – Approved with Conditions

Site Location & Description

The application relates to two locations within the town centre public realm works approved by Members under 2018/0279. The first location, which is relevant to the Barry Hines Memorial, is on Cheapside adjacent to the western entrance to the new Glassworks Arcade and directly north of the entrance to the Alhambra shopping centre. The second location, relevant to the Covid-19 Pandemic Memorial, is within a landscaped area upon the eastern flank of the new public square opposite the entrance to the new cinema complex.

Proposed Development & Background

The application has been submitted for the following proposals:

Barry Hines Memorial Sculpture:

The Barry Hines Memorial Sculpture, affectionately known as the “Kes Sculpture” depicts a scene from the iconic 1960’s film Kes, directed by Ken Loach and based on the book “A Kestrel for a Knave” by Barnsley author Barry Hines. The figure is cast in bronze and depicts the main character Billy Casper kneeling with bird in hand.

Funds for the creation of the sculpture came from local people following a successful campaign by a committed group of individuals making up the Kes Group.

This piece has been temporarily on display both in Experience Barnsley Museum and the new Library at the Lightbox. It was designed to be an outdoor piece and now that the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme is nearing completion the public realm site outside one of the entrances to the Glassworks covered shopping arcade and the Alhambra presents the ideal opportunity to display this piece in a prominent location and for more people to engage with an iconic piece of Barnsley’s popular culture (see projected image below).



Covid Memorial Sculpture

Barnsley is one of the only towns in the country to be planning a permanent memorial sculpture for the coronavirus pandemic. The artwork, to be known as “*Reverence*”, will provide a way for people to remember their loved ones and acknowledge the admirable and inspirational contribution of key workers and others during this momentous period in our history. The proposals feature seven over life size figures cast in bronze which represent ordinary working people who are hugely underrepresented in public art across the world. The figures represent different generations and various communities and are intended to be reflective of everyone that has been affected throughout the pandemic. The figures depict a teacher, volunteer delivery person, nurse, police officer, care worker, old man and young girl.

Graham Ibbeson will create the sculpture working in collaboration with Lockbund Foundry. Graham is a Barnsley artist with an international reputation for his figurative work.

The plinth will be clad in Yorkstone to complement the surroundings and the bronze figures. It will have inscriptions of job roles and organisations in tribute to key workers along both sides. The steering group for the project made up of representatives from a wide range of organisations across the borough have spent considerable time working on the proposed wording, including consulting with focus groups and key workers. The final wording reads

To all front line keyworkers who helped us including: All NHS Workers and Care Workers, Fire, Police and Ambulance Services, Education Leaders, Teachers and Support Staff, Postal, Childcare, Shop and Council Workers, Bus Drivers and Transport Workers, Cleaners, Bin Collection Crews, Delivery Drivers, the Armed Forces, volunteers and members of the community

The front of the sculpture will bear the fitting motto *Spectemur Agendo* meaning judge us by our actions, which is also the Barnsley Council official motto. There will also be an explanatory bronze plaque bearing the words *Coronavirus Pandemic in memory of those we lost and in tribute to those who helped keep us safe.*

The rear of the plinth will be inscribed with poetic wording developed by celebrated Barnsley poet and broadcaster Ian McMillan and reads, *Barnsley's fierce love holds you forever in its heart.* Underneath this wording there will be a cast bronze plate made up of artwork selected from drawings of key workers submitted by primary school children from across the borough. This will mark the impact of Covid on a generation and along with the sculpture will endure for many decades throughout the lives of the children who have contributed.

The plinth will have a planting scheme on the sides and front, leaving the rear clear for access to closer inspection of the Children's bronze plate.

The sculpture and plinth will be set within a demarked polygon area containing, paving, seating and a planting scheme aligned with the materials and design utilised in the landscape architecture of The Glass Works main square (see projected images below).



Policy Context

Planning decisions should be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise and the NPPF does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. The Local Plan is the statutory development plan for the borough. The Council has also adopted a series of Supplementary Planning Documents which are also material considerations.

Local Plan

Relevant Local Plan policies include:

GD1 – General Development – Development will be approved if there will be no significant adverse effect on the living conditions and residential amenity of existing and future residents.

D1 – High Quality Design and Place Making – Development is expected to be of a high quality design and will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and other features of Barnsley.

T4 – New Development and Transport Safety – New development will be expected to be designed and built to provide all transport users within and surrounding the development with safe, secure and convenient access and movement.

TC1 – Town Centres - All retail and town centre developments will be expected to be appropriate to the scale, role, function and character of the centres in which they are proposed.

BTC12 – The Markets Area District - We will allow shops, offices, leisure developments, and food and drink uses within the Markets District. Other uses will be supported were they contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.

NPPE

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. At the heart is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Development proposals that accord with the development plan should be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the Framework as a whole; or where specific policies in the Framework indicate development should be restricted or unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Consultations

Comments have been received from the following consultees:-

Highways Development Control – No objections subject to Legal and Highway Authority Consultation.

Highway Authority – No objections to siting of memorials

Legal – Confirm that the Local Authority has the powers necessary to place the statues.

Urban Design – Is supportive of the proposals.

Representations

The application was publicised by neighbour notification letters and a site notice. No comments have been received.

Assessment

Principle of Development

The site is located within the Markets Area of the Town Centre covered by LP Policy BTC12. The policy encourages development that adds to the vibrancy and vitality of the town centre and it is considered that the public art that is proposed is a key element of this aspiration. Indeed Chapter 16 of the Local Plan in which BTC12 is located sets out the vision for Barnsley Town Centre and highlights Public Art as a key aspect of making the town centre a more pleasant, exciting and healthy urban environment. The principle of the development is therefore in line with the requirements of the Local Plan to achieve a high quality urban centre that is attractive to residents and visitors alike.

Visual Amenity

The Barry Hines (Kes) statue shall be sited in a highly visible position at the end of the promenade created by Cheapside at the exchange of pedestrian flows between the new arcade and the existing Alhambra shopping centre. The statue is already on show in the Lightbox and is of evident high quality and finish. The new location will enable a greater amount of people to view and appreciate the sculpture and celebrate an iconic part of

Barnsley's popular culture. Indeed the art-work will be a focal point in this location given that it is a key pedestrian area and will serve to improve the visual quality of the public realm.

The Covid-19 memorial sculpture is, at the time of writing, a unique endeavour by a Local Authority. The development will recognise the bravery and sacrifice of keyworkers during the pandemic while also memorialising those who lost their lives to the disease. The artwork, its plinth and supporting plaques are to be sited in one of the most prominent locations in the new Glassworks Public Square and the surrounding landscaping, inclusive of benches, trees and paving, will allow pedestrians to take their time to study the contents, detail and meaning of the sculpture and its plaques in a full 360 degree field of view and at varying proximities. The location, scale and massing of the memorial is appropriate to its context and will be noticeable and of visual interest, though not dominant, within the square given its offset location when viewed on the site plan.

In respect of the design of the sculpture itself, the only input from the Local Planning Authority has been in the form of the consultee responses from the Senior Urban Designer who was a part of the multi-agency steering group led by the Head of Culture and Visitor Economy. The steering group included representatives of key worker services (including for example the NHS, Police/ Fire/ Ambulance Services and Education), as well as South Yorkshire Mayor Dan Jarvis, Head of Curatorial Programmes at Yorkshire Sculpture Park - Helen Pheby and former Barnsley Poet Laureate Ian MacMillan who have helped refine the design with the chosen artist, Graham Ibbeson. A consultation process has been undertaken both to gain feedback on the proposed general design, via The Barnsley Chronicle and social media channels. Fusion, Barnsley's cultural education Partnership, will be inviting primary school children to submit their drawings of key workers for the plaque. It should be noted that the images of the figurines provided within the application were of early stage maquettes. The design of the individual figures are being further refined in consultation with the steering group.

In light of the above review, both memorials are considered high quality additions to the public realm in their respective locations and they shall serve to improve the aesthetic appeal of the Town Centre as the social and cultural heart of Barnsley in accordance with LP Policies GD1 – General Development and D1 – High Quality Design and Placemaking

Residential Amenity

The site is located within an established commercial town centre area, with no residential properties in close proximity of the development. There are therefore no material amenity issues envisaged in respect of overshadowing, overbearance or privacy. It is also anticipated that the statues will not be prejudicial to the amenity of surrounding commercial units in line with the requirements of Local Plan policy GD1.

Highway Safety

Highways DC and the Highways Authority have confirmed that they have no objections.

A legal response was also recommended by Highways DC to ensure that the statues could be erected under Local Authority powers. Section 42 (Statues and Monuments) of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act 1890 confirms the following:

Any urban authority may from time to time authorise the erection in any street or public place within their district of any statue or monument, and may maintain the same, and any statue or monument erected within their district before the adoption of this part of this Act, and may remove any statue or monument the erection of which has been authorised by them.

Internal legal advice has confirmed that the above is valid.

In conclusion, both aspects of the development are found to be sound and in accordance with LP Policy T4 – New Development and Transport Safety subject to submission of satisfactory details with respect of structural design.

Conclusion

There are no concerns with this proposal from a planning policy perspective as the sculptures conform in land use terms with the requirements of the development plan as set out in LP Policy BTC12. In addition both

proposals do not generate any issues from a residential or visual amenity perspective and, in respect of the latter, will contribute in a positive manner to the public space within the town centre while reinforcing the cultural values of Barnsley and its populace. No other material considerations have been identified against the proposal which means that the Officer recommendation is to grant planning permission.

Recommendation

Grant subject to conditions

Conditions

1/. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In order to comply with the provision of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2/. The development hereby approved shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the plans and specifications as approved unless required by any other conditions in this permission.

Covid Memorial Plan Nos

- Public Realm General Arrangement Plan - Covid Memorial - BBTC-IBI-N1-L-G700-PL-00-33
- Indicative Levels Plan - Covid Memorial - BBTC-IBI-N1-L-G700-PL-00-34
- Covid Memorial 3D Render
- Marshalls Plinth Plans - Typical Elevations/Plan View/Section Through Cladding/Components - 16/03/2021

Barry Hines Memorial

- Public Realm - General Arrangement Plan - Cheapside (Alhambra) - BBTC_IBI_N3_L_G700_PL_00_17 Rev E
- BE 1 Bench Type 1 and W1 Wall Type 1 [Alhambra] - BBTC_IBI_N3_L_G700_DT_00_22 - Rev B

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and in accordance with Local Plan Policy D1 High Quality Design and Place Making.