



WARD 5: LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PUBLIC ART PROJECT AT ALMONDELL CEMETERY, EAST CALDER

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Local Area Committee of the public art memorial project at the new Almondell Cemetery, East Calder,

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and provides any additional comments for the artist to consider, alongside the public consultation, as part of the process of producing a new public art work for Almondell Cemetery.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>The planning application for the Almondell Cemetery in 2014 indicated three locations for public art.</p> <p>There are no equality, health or risk assessment issues or SEA issues.</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 8 - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	WLC "Grassroots 3" public art grant scheme (from developer funding) award of £15k in Autumn 2019 to East Calder Community Resource Association (ECCRA) & a matching £15k contribution from Calderwood Core Development Area (CDA) developer, Stirling Developments.

VII	Consideration at LAC	This is the first time this report has been presented to the Local Area Committee
VIII	Other consultations	Operational Services (Cemeteries), Stirling Developments, East Calder Community Council, Calderwood Residents Association, local Churches / Edinburgh Interfaith Organisation and potentially local schools.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

As there was a need for a new cemetery to serve the east side of West Lothian, a new cemetery was a requirement of the Calderwood Core Development Area (CDA) allocation in the 2009 West Lothian Local Plan. The cemetery was funded via the CDA developers, Stirling Developments, but procured by the council.

However, issues with the ground conditions and overall available budget for delivery meant that the three public art pieces, originally intended to be provided within the new cemetery layout, were not progressed. The cemetery was constructed in 2015.

East Calder Community Resource Association, who had a track record of successful public art commissions at the East Calder Partnership Centre, applied to West Lothian Council "Grassroots 3 Public Art projects funding for a memorial art work at the entrance garden to the formal cemetery area in Almondell and were awarded £15k in Autumn 2019.

Stirling Developments as part of their master plan for Calderwood had a planning condition to prepare a public art strategy for the CDA. This was completed in Autumn 2019 and they were approached for £15k to match the "Grassroots" grant, which they agreed to as the public art project matched their aspirations to work with the East Calder community on various new public art works over the next 10 years.

D2 Artist and initial art concept

A detailed artist brief was put together by Community Arts in Autumn 2019 and advertised on Creative Scotland web-site. From the six expressions of interest received, four artists were interviewed in mid-December 2019 and Svetlana Kondakova was appointed by ECCRA in January 2020.

Svetlana had undertaken similar commissions and worked with the general public on large art works across East Central Scotland.

The brief sought to create a memorial artwork for the new Cemetery at East Calder where people can commemorate the names and dates of loved ones. This would make reference to concepts that are open, harmonious, contemplative, peaceful and calm and use information about local flora and fauna as well as local history as may be appropriate when approaching the design

Three initial art works concepts have been formulated by the artist (see Appendix 1)

- "Tree of Life" - theme concept is inspired by the idea that the remembrance of the departed creates a presence for them among the living;
- "The River" - another universal concept connecting all forms of creation and heaven to the underworld; and
- "Bridge" - as a symbol for travel, crossing, transition.

D3 Consultation and timeline

Consultation is now underway following the initial consultation with a focus group comprising ECCRA, East Calder Community Council, Calderwood Residents Association and Stirling Developments on three initial art concepts. The next stage will involve Church Representatives and potentially members of bereavement groups.

Thereafter, one concept will be selected out of three based on all consultations to date and the artist will develop the design (possible methods & materials) and submit the design for approval of the Steering Group before a public consultation event.

In March schools / children will be engaged with a public event in April to present a design, albeit it will not be finalised and may have possible variations. This design will be open to inputs and suggestions from the public (this could include details e.g. plants to incorporate, colours / materials / finishes).

The finalised design, based on school workshop creations and public inputs, will be submitted through the planning application process and once approved, with the summer months anticipated for fabrication of the art work and installation in Autumn 2020.

There will be an opportunity for a formal opening / dedication ceremony for the completed art work and elected members will be invited. Thereafter, there is scope to consider further additional memorial artworks in the cemetery as originally intended.

E. CONCLUSION

There has been a longstanding intention to provide memorial public art works in the new cemetery at Almondell, East Calder. East Calder Community Resource Association via the council's "Grassroots" public art grant programme, along with Stirling Developments, has commissioned an artist who is undertaking wide public consultation.

The completed art work should be an important addition to the memorials within the cemetery and the wider East Calder community.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: One – Artist's three initial design concepts for Almondell Cemetery.

Contact Persons:

Chris Alcorn, Principal Planner, Development Planning: 01506-282428.

Email: chris.alcorn@westlothian.gov.uk

Camille Archer, Community Arts Officer: 01506-281014.

Email: camille.archer@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Cameron

Head of Education (Learning Policy & Resources)

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