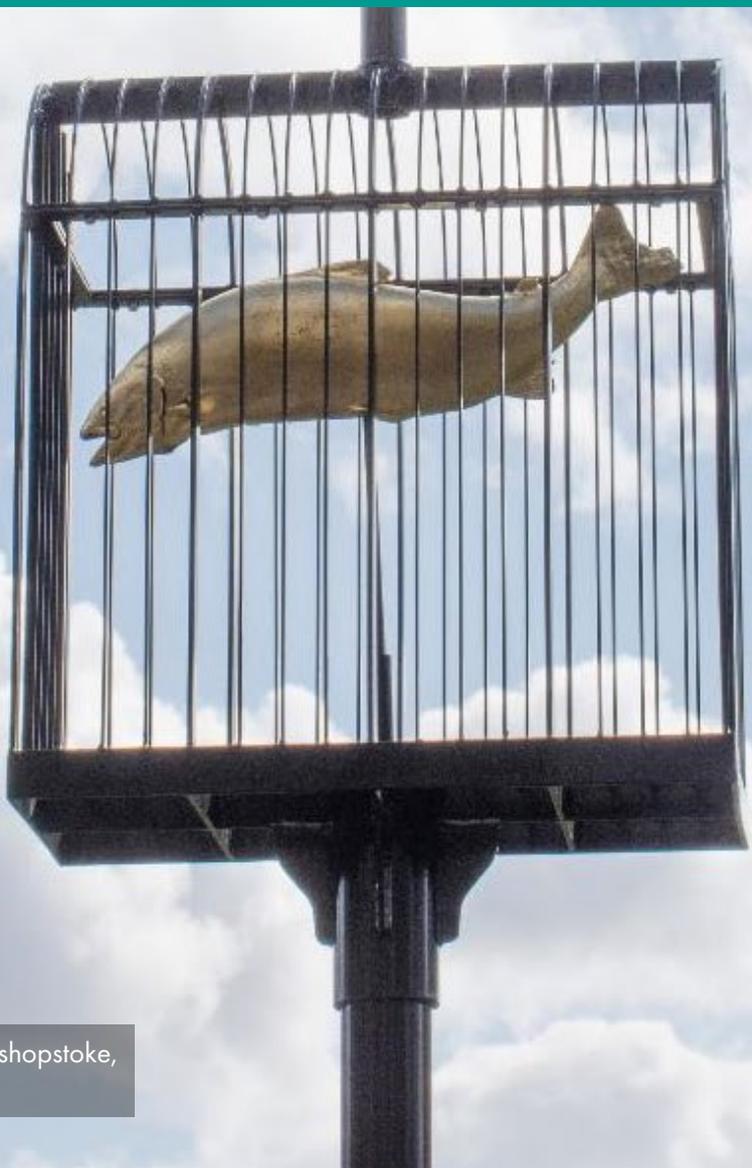




Public Art Vision for Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath



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Introduction

This document sets out a framework for commissioning public art in Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath (BIFOHH). It sits alongside Eastleigh Borough Council's Public Art Strategy and related policies and has been prepared in consultation with both Bishopstoke Parish Council and Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council.

Within this Vision we have identified why and how public art is part of the Local Area Action Plan, how it can be resourced and some of the considerations for successful commissioning. We have also identified key themes and projects which would make new public art most meaningful for our communities.

It is hoped that project managers and artists will refer to the guidance in this Vision before commencing projects in BIFOHH. We want to ensure that new commissions are not developed in isolation from other public art in the Local Area and that through joined-up working our residents get the most from the resources available.

The Public Art Vision for Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath has been prepared by Eastleigh Borough Council's Urban and Landscape Design Team. May 2023.

Public Art and the Local Area Action Plan

The 2023 BIFOHH Local Area Action Plan (LAAP) identifies public art as a key priority for the Local Area Committee (LAC) and specifies that public art commissioning should have

“a joined-up approach that reflects and celebrates the natural environment and essence of the local villages.”

This should be understood as the guiding statement for public art commissioning in BIFOHH.

Public art commissioning should also support the delivery of other key priorities listed in the LAAP. In 2023/24 these include:

- **Tackling Climate Change and Environmental Emergency** - Enable our local community to meet the Borough’s goals, ensuring the climate and environment are central in every project delivered and decision taken.
- **Development** - Councillors will work tirelessly to protect the environment, and ensure any development has regard to the views and wellbeing of existing residents, communities, biodiversity and sensitive habitats.
- **Improving Community Wellbeing and Prosperity** - Maximise the delivery of community benefits and facilities in partnership with the local parish councils, including the use of developer contributions.



Metal deer in Crowdhill / Fair Oak,
Colin Phillips, 2020

Public Art Commissioning in BFOHH

Money is usually secured for public art through s106 developer's contributions paid to Eastleigh Borough Council. Depending on the level of contribution, s106 Agreements may specify that the funds should be spent on commissioning public art on-site within the development or off-site within the Local Area (See Eastleigh Borough Council's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document for further guidance).

Public art projects can be resourced via external funding sources eg. Arts Council England grants. S106 contributions can often be used as match-funding for applications to external funders and is usually considered to strengthen an application.

Public art projects may also be delivered by developers, if agreed with Eastleigh Borough Council during the planning approval stage. Developers will be expected to liaise with the BFOHH LAC to agree the artist's brief and to commission artwork to the equivalent value as would be paid through a s106 Agreement.

Proposals for all public art projects funded fully or partially through s106 contributions must be presented to the LAC for approval and allocation of funds.

The LAC (or a working group representing the LAC and any relevant stakeholders) will need to approve how the project is managed. This decision has implications for the project budget, s106 monitoring and Council reporting processes. The three options for project management are:

- a. Eastleigh Borough Council's Public Art Officer or an alternative officer as is available.
- b. Parish Council delivery i.e. Parish Clerk or an alternative member of staff.
- c. An external party i.e. art consultants, cultural organisations or an independent curator/producer.

Options A and B are generally preferred to ensure maximum value for money and optimal efficiency of reporting.

Budgets for public art projects must include fair artist fees, production and installation costs, project management fees, 5-10% contingency and maintenance liabilities which will be commuted to the landowner on completion of the project. Project budgets may have additional budget considerations specific to the project such as marketing or hospitality.

Further guidance on public art commissioning can be found in Eastleigh Borough Council's Public Art Strategy and accompanying document, '[Public Art Process and Procedure](#)'.

Themes

The following are suggested as broad themes for public art within BIFOHH. Depending on the scope of a particular project there is potential for one or more of these themes to be addressed in a single project.

Biodiversity and Ecology

Both Parishes are semi-rural with a rich ecology of flora and fauna. There are numerous opportunities to be in nature, explore and learn more about the natural world.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Communities in BIFOHH have great concern about the global climate emergency, the most serious cause of climate change being carbon emissions into the atmosphere as a result of human activity. Given their innovative approaches, artists could address these issues with public art projects.

Sustainable Transport and Connections

The nearest railway stations to BIFOHH are Eastleigh and Hedge End. The quality of walk/cycle connections and bus infrastructure on routes serving these stations is of prime importance and projects that support active travel within the BIFOHH Local Area are encouraged. Walking and cycling also has a positive impact on physical and mental health and enabling the community to get about more easily on foot or by bike is a key aim of projects in the Local Area.

Cultural Heritage and Identity

Understanding the history of our area and how changes in human activity have impacted our surroundings can help us to think more deeply about who we are, how we live and what we want to conserve. Artworks can take inspiration from local anthropology, archaeology and artefacts associated with the Local Area, as well as the cultural and landscape histories and land management patterns, past and present.

Potential Projects

Connection and Wayfinding

Linking up travel networks with BIFOHH's green routes, village centres and new developments and improving access to green spaces. Public art supporting enhanced linkages from the centres to key local destinations will make the area more pleasurable to explore on foot, by bicycle or using public transport.

Meeting Points

Enhancing public open spaces with commissioned play equipment, seating, shelters and focal points could make them more appealing to residents and visitors.

Bespoke is Better

Commissioned functional pieces such as benches, lighting, cycle racks, water features etc would make the area more visually distinctive from other places.

The Heart of our Villages

Our Local Area would benefit from projects which can raise the profile of Fair Oak village centre and key locations in Bishopstoke and Horton Heath to make them more attractive to residents and businesses.

Celebrating our Art and Culture

Highlighting public art and cultural activity in BIFOHH e.g. walking trails and tours, online and/or printed maps, festivals and events, marketing campaigns etc.

Our Area is an Arboretum

Working with artists to celebrate and broaden the diversity of tree species in BIFOHH through exploring, documenting and planting would encourage people to spend more time outdoors and appreciate biodiversity in the Local Area.



Homeguard Gates at New Century Park / Fair Oak, Colin Phillips, 2001

Addressing Climate Change through Public Art

Future commissioning should monitor and mitigate carbon emissions resulting from public art projects. This will involve consideration of direct emissions, such as those generated by transport of people involved in the projects.

Indirect carbon emissions include those arising from the embodied energy of the materials used in the artwork. Typically, these might be steel and other metals, timber and concrete. Embodied energy is defined as the energy associated with the manufacturing of a product or services. It includes energy used to extract and process raw materials, the manufacture of construction materials, transport and distribution, assembly and construction. In public art commissioning emissions can result most heavily from the fabrication and installation of the artwork.

Decisions about relative embodied energy are not straightforward because some materials will last longer than others. For example, material 'A' might have higher embodied energy than material 'B', but also have a much longer lifespan. In addition, on the assumption that we need to minimise the ongoing maintenance costs of the artworks to BIFOH and the Parishes there may be difficult decisions about balancing this need with the embodied energy of materials.

Partly because of these challenges and because it will be impossible to avoid some direct and indirect carbon emissions carbon offsetting could be considered for future public art projects. Planting large tree species within the local area could be an effective approach to carbon offsetting which offers additional benefits to the local community.

Public Art Policies

Eastleigh Borough Council's Public Art Strategy, Public Art Process and Procedure guidance document and Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document can be found on the Eastleigh Borough Council website:

www.eastleigh.gov.uk/parks-leisure-and-culture/arts-and-culture/public-art/eastleighs-public-art-policies



Woodland Community Centre Mosaic /
Fair Oak, Will Rosie, 2022