

Appendix 2

Proposed Tree Sculpture in St Chad's Library Gardens, Uppermill

Background

The large cherry tree which is situated in a prominent position in the Library Gardens in Uppermill has unfortunately been in decline over recent years and following detailed discussions within the Council's Arbor and Countryside Service, the difficult decision has been reached that the tree will have to be removed.

It appears that rather than go into a slow decline over a number of years the cherry has deteriorated quite quickly, more than likely as a result of repeated attacks by various pathogens (probably due to their increased virulence as changes in climate conditions have occurred). As cherries are in the Rosaceae family the likely causes would be Fireblight and/or *Pseudomonas syringae* and most probably repeated attacks of both of these.



The Arbor and Countryside Service have said that as a bare minimum they would grind the stump out and replace the tree but have suggested that this would be an ideal opportunity to create a lasting feature in the gardens by carving the remaining trunk of the tree to create a natural sculpture.

Proposal

Following some preliminary discussions it was felt that it was worth exploring this unique opportunity to create an addition to the gardens. A replacement tree would still be planted but the Council would engage an artist to create a sculpture using tools to carve into the remaining trunk of the tree.

Given the proximity to the river and local wildlife the initial proposal is for a heron to be created. There have been sightings of a heron on the riverbank just near the cherry tree and the natural proportions of a heron would suit the thickness and height of the remaining trunk.

The heron also has a variety of positive meanings and symbolisms in a number of cultures, including self-determination, self-reflection, inquisitiveness, curiosity and determination along with strength and patience which would seem appropriate for the location close the library and the existing peace pole situated in the gardens.

Colleagues in the Arbor and Countryside team have spoken to 3 suitable and reputable artists in order to get an idea of the cost involved and have looked at their experience and examples of work. At this stage they have a preferred option and examples of their work are shown below

Examples of work from the initial preferred artist



Examples of heron sculptures



Timescale and Activities

In order to plan the work if the heron sculpture is to go ahead it is proposed to carry out the project during the school Easter holidays. This would also allow for a programme of woodland/ country craft activities to take place alongside the carving of the sculpture. These activities - aimed at children, young people and families - could take place outdoors in the Library Gardens and possibly within the library itself.

Costs

Initial quotations have been received by three artists based on examples of work and experience of delivering similar projects. The most suitable of these has provided a provisional estimate of £2,500. There would be an additional cost involved for the hire of a cherry picker at a rate of £90-£100 per day.

Ideally, a budget of £2,700 would be needed to enable the sculpture works to be programmed. (A funding request is included within the District Executive Budget Report).

Funding for community/youth activities around the event would be sourced elsewhere should the sculpture work be agreed.