The Sycamores, Barty Farm, Bearsted

Public Art Commission: call for proposals for artwork

Budget for artwork: £12,000 including VAT

Deadline for submission of artist proposals: Saturday 26th October, 11:59pm

Open day: Thursday 10th October 2pm

Dandara Ltd are calling for proposals for an artist to create a single sculptural public artwork to mark the entrance of ‘The Sycamores’, a development of 100 houses on former arable land at Barty Farm in Bearsted, near Maidstone, Kent.

The development represents a significant addition to the number of dwellings in Bearsted village; the public artwork should celebrate the new communities that will form when it is occupied and refer to the historical context of the site and surrounding buildings.

The artwork should be developed as a site-specific response to its location at Barty Farm in the historic village of Bearsted that can draw on the social and architectural history of the local area.
The Sycamores is a development of 100 houses ranging from 1 bedroom apartments to 5 bedroom detached houses. The architecture draws on the traditional features of houses found in the Bearsted conservation area such as timber cladding, clay hanging tiles and red brick and flint walls.
Key Elements of the Proposal

• The proposed location for the artwork is on a sloped triangular section of land at the entrance to The Sycamores (see aerial plan on page 4). It should welcome residents and visitors to the development. Please note that the trees shown on the location are for illustration only.

• There are a number of constraints at the location such as the gas mains running across one side of the triangle and the changes in level. These are illustrated in the drawing on page 5.

• Details of the materials used for buildings, kerbs and surfacing are shown in the separate plans document on pages 2, 3, and 4.

• Life expectancy of the artwork should be at least 15 years.

• The artwork should provide a single focal point for the designated location.

• Adjacent to the location of the artwork will be a bus stop, which means that residents using the bus service will pause at the location.

• Proposals should consider how the location might be landscaped to accommodate an artwork within it. Dandara Ltd may be able to offer landscaping support for example through building retaining walls at the rear of the location, and would welcome ideas for landscaping within the proposal.

• The height of the artwork should be considered in relation to the houses around; it should not overpower the scale of the architectural setting. The house immediately adjacent to the location will be 8460mm in height.

• The artwork will also be visible from Barty House, the grade II listed care home for the elderly, which lies opposite the entrance to The Sycamores.
The red box on the aerial drawing of The Sycamores shows the triangular location for the public artwork.

1:500 N 05 15 30m
**Historic context**

**Barty Family of Bearsted and Maidstone**

The Barty Family gave their name to Barty Farm, located directly north east of the development site, and Barty House located directly south east of the development site. According to historian Edward Hasted, who wrote a book about the area and its inhabitants at the end of the 1700s, the Barty family had owned land and farmed the area from the reign of Henry II (1133-1189) onwards. Kentish Ragstone quarrying was an important industry around Maidstone from Roman times and some men from the Barty family were skilled stone masons in the 1500s, one of them was even master stone mason at Winchester Cathedral.

**Bearsted Village and Maidstone Borough**

Bearsted is a historic village located close to Maidstone town centre.

‘The village and parish of Bearsted lie 2.5 miles east of the town of Maidstone. The soil in the parish is sandy loam in some parts, strong clay in others. Bearsted occupies a landscape of low rolling hills with unspoiled views of the North Downs to the northeast. Rural Thurnham village is north of Bearsted and shares some of its social institutions. Wooded Hog Hill lies to the west of development along The Green. Other significant areas of open space include The Green at the historical centre of the village and fields lying southeast of Holy Cross Church and Mote Hall. Registered Grade II Mote Park lies to the southwest of the parish. Bearsted Conservation Area encircles The Green.

Modern suburban development creeps into the village from the west and south. Bearsted is well connected with transport links. The parish of Bearsted is bisected by Ashford Road (the A20) and the M20 passes north of the parish boundary. The village is served by mainline railway with connections to London, Maidstone and Ashford. It is also well served by the municipal bus service.’  

*Bearsted Conservation Areas Appraisal and Management Plan, 2010*
Further Information and links


Excerpt about Bearsted from The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 5. By Edward Hasted, originally published by W Bristow, Canterbury, 1798.

Bearsted Tithe Award Schedules

John Blamire Brown’s recollections of village life in Bearsted 1920 - 1945

Bearsted Woodland Trust

Wikipedia page for Bearsted

Detailed information about the historical development of Bearsted village, as well as as many images of the architecture can be found in the 2010 Bearsted Conservation Areas Appraisal and Management Plan, pages 5 - 15

Barty House Care Home
Suitability and Outcomes

Submission details

The opportunity is suitable for:

- Established artists with a proven track record of working in the public realm.
- Artists who can demonstrate how their work would respond to the development location and siting within it.

The selected artist will be expected to:

- Work closely with the commissioner.
- Attend meetings of the commissioning panel.
- Meet the deadlines for and provide information necessary to support a planning application. The commissioners consultant team will lead on the application.
- Work to set deadlines.
- Work with the commissioners to ensure health and safety requirements are met.
- Have public liability cover of up to £5,000,000 and provide the commissioner with proof of cover throughout the project period and until transfer of title takes place.
How to apply

Stage 1 - submitting a proposal

Artists should submit a single pdf containing the following information:

1. A statement of no more than 1000 words which details the artist’s motivation for creating a sculpture on this site, and their experience of working on large-scale sculptural commissions.

2. A schedule of work showing how the artist will manage the project tasks to completion, including allowing for a planning application to be approved by Maidstone Borough Council.

3. A budget showing the artist’s proposed allocation of fees and the estimated cost for installation.

4. A current CV

5. Images showing the artist’s recent work. Please submit up to 5 images, and include with the images the following information: title, date made, materials used, location, brief description (100 words maximum) of work.

6. Name and contact details for two referees. Please indicate whether you are happy for the referees to be approached prior to the next commissioning stage.


Deadline 11.59pm, 26th October 2019
**Stage 2- shortlisting**

The commissioning panel will seek to shortlist up to 4 artists for stage 2. References will be sought at this stage and the shortlisted artists will be invited to interview to present their ideas to the commissioning panel. Shortlisted artists will be notified that they have been invited to interview by Friday 1st November 2019.

**Stage 3 - contracting the successful artist**

Following the interviews, the panel will invite one artist to accept the commission.

**Notes**

**Eligibility**
The process is open to artists/groups/teams who are UK residents. The Panel is committed to equal opportunities for all and the submissions will be judged as seen, purely on merit and without prejudice.

**Copyright and Detail of Ownership**
The copyright for the final design and all drawings/maquettes relating to the design work will remain with the artist. Dandara Ltd will retain ownership of the final work when delivered and installed on site and has control over the rights for any photographic reproduction required to promote the scheme. The artist will be required to sign a transfer of title and submit a maintenance manual on completion of the project.

**The closing date for submission of proposals is 26th October 2019, 11.59pm.**

**Budget**
The fee payable to the artist for this commission is £12,000. The budget for this proposal includes design, fabrication, materials, transport, installation including any ground works, fees and expenses, as well as VAT. The commissioning panel are flexible to the wide range of creative approaches this commission can take.