

**East Area Planning Committee**

**12th October 2016**

**Application Number:** 16/01472/FUL

**Decision Due by:** 2nd August 2016

**Proposal:** Installation of public artwork and seating.

**Site Address:** Land At The Junction Of Cowley Road And Newman Road  
– see **Appendix 1**

**Ward:** Littlemore Ward

**Agent:** N/A

**Applicant:** Littlemore Parish Council

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## **Recommendation:**

Officers recommend that the East Area Planning Committee approves the application, subject to conditions.

For the following reasons:

- 1 The Council considers that the proposal accords with the policies of the development plan as summarised below. It has taken into consideration all other material matters, including matters raised in response to consultation and publicity. Any material harm that the development would otherwise give rise to can be offset by the conditions imposed.

subject to the following conditions, which have been imposed for the reasons stated:-

- 1 Development begun within time limit
- 2 Develop in accordance with approved plans
- 3 Materials as proposed
- 4 Maintenance plan

## **Main Local Plan Policies:**

### **Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016**

**CP1** - Development Proposals

**CP8** - Design Development to Relate to its Context

**CP10** - Siting Development to Meet Functional Needs

**CP11** - Landscape Design

## **CP14 - Public Art**

### **Core Strategy**

**CS18\_** - Urban design, town character, historic environment

**CS19\_** - Community safety

### **Other Material Considerations:**

National Planning Policy Framework  
Planning Practice Guidance

### **Relevant Site History:**

None

### **Representations Received:**

None

### **Statutory Consultees:**

Highways Authority: do not wish to comment

### **Issues:**

Siting and visual impact  
Public art  
Community safety  
Maintenance

### **Officers Assessment:**

#### Site description

1. The site is an area of village green on the corner of Newman Road and Cowley Road, Littlemore. There is a range of tree and shrub planting as well as benches and a footpath crossing the site. The site is an asset of, and is maintained by, Littlemore Parish Council.

#### Proposal

2. The application is seeking permission for the erection of a community art project which is a spruce plywood and oak structure taking the form of a sculptural tree, incorporating seating. The sculpture is to be engraved with motifs, coloured in black pigment, that reference the industrial, social and religious changes in Littlemore over the last 300 years. The sculpture is a response to a brief from Littlemore Parish Council.
3. A planning application, reference 15/02171/FUL, was refused by the East

Area Planning Committee for the same sculpture but located on the corner of Oxford Road, Cowley Road and Sandford Road, adjacent to the mini roundabout in Littlemore, on an area of land that fronts Blewitt Court. The reason for refusal was as follows:

*Having regard to the individual circumstances the proposal and its relationship with adjacent buildings, it is considered to represent an inappropriate form of a development. By virtue of its design, siting and scale it would create an obtrusive and harmful development detrimental to the visual quality of the area. The proposal would therefore fail to preserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area and cause an adverse impact on the setting of a nearby Listed Building. The proposal therefore falls contrary to a number of policies in Oxford City Council Core Strategy 2011; in particular 'Policy HE.3' on 'Listed Buildings and Their Setting', and 'Policy HE.7' on 'Conservation Areas' from the Oxford City Council Local Plan 2005.*

4. The applicant is Cllr Henwood on behalf of Littlemore Parish Council and therefore the application is being determined by Committee.

#### Siting and visual impact

5. The proposed location is an open green space and it is considered that the sculpture would be visually prominent and would sit comfortably in this setting, set back from the roads that enclose the green. The function of the space as a village green is considered compatible with and suitable for such a piece of community art, both in terms of providing additional seating and in terms of the story the work would tell.
6. Where the previously proposed location was considered inappropriate in relation to the conservation area and nearby Listed Building, locating the sculpture here would provide visual interest of an appropriate scale and materials. It is considered to contribute to the public realm and to enhance the sense of place for the village green.

#### Public art

7. The Oxford Local Plan states that public art should be accessible for public enjoyment, enhance and enliven the environment, and contribute to the cultural identity of its location. The proposal is consistent with this description and has a number of layers – contemporary sculptural addition and landmark; seating and shelter; pictorial history of Littlemore; materiality and construction – to appreciate.

#### Community safety

8. The village green is already equipped with benches to encourage the enjoyment of the space. The addition of the proposed sculpture and its seating would increase this provision. The site is highly visible, well overlooked and is lit by street lighting; it is a comfortable distance from residential properties. The proposal is therefore consistent with policy CS19 of the Oxford Core Strategy in promoting safe and attractive environments.

## Maintenance

9. The application states that the proposed project would be maintained by Littlemore Parish Council as part of its service agreement with Oxford City Council. This would be secured by condition.

## **Conclusion:**

10. Officers recommend that the East Area Planning Committee approves the application, subject to conditions.

## **Human Rights Act 1998**

Officers have considered the Human Rights Act 1998 in reaching a recommendation to grant planning permission, subject to conditions. Officers have considered the potential interference with the rights of the owners/occupiers of surrounding properties under Article 8 and/or Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Act and consider that it is proportionate.

Officers have also considered the interference with the human rights of the applicant under Article 8 and/or Article 1 of the First Protocol caused by imposing conditions. Officers consider that the conditions are necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others and to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest. The interference is therefore justifiable and proportionate.

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Officers have considered, with due regard, the likely effect of the proposal on the need to reduce crime and disorder as part of the determination of this application, in accordance with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. In reaching a recommendation to approve, officers consider that the proposal will not undermine crime prevention or the promotion of community safety.

**Background Papers:** 15/02171/FUL

**Contact Officer:** Nadia Robinson

**Extension:** 2697

**Date:** 22nd August 2016