

BARNABY AIR

Project update

The Hamilton Project

October 25, 2021

Creative consultation

One of the major outputs of the Barnaby AIR project is to produce a manifesto of ideas for public art in Macclesfield. Representing as wide a range of views as possible is key. To this end we have budgeted for three in person creative consultation sessions, each facilitated by artist Fabric Lenny. The steering group for the project is formed with project partners, Macclesfield Security in Place (MSIP) and Barnaby Festival, and we are keeping other cultural partners and communities in the town updated through attendance of the Macclesfield Cultural Forum.

For *Treacle Market* in June, Fabric Lenny created a model of Jacopo, Macclesfield's ballooning monkey, who accompanied famous aeronautist Charles Green on his two accents in Macclesfield in 1827, during Barnaby Fair. This stunning piece of work was an effective way of engaging with adults while children were busy creating and adding art to the sculpture. A summary of the responses from participants is appended.



Weston consultation

The second Barnaby AIR consultation took place on Sunday 10th October at Weston Park with Fabric Lenny setting up easels to make a drawing station in the park. While this was not as busy as Treacle Market, we recognise the importance of taking the consultation out to other communities in localities outside the town centre.

As a result of the conversations we had with residents on the day, our thinking is to focus on making good use of resources to explore how we could support existing projects in the park and in the area, such as Councillor Alift's pocket park (Alift took Fabric Lenny to see the PP) and the £50k plan for a new play area. Under the aegis of the Barnaby AIR project, we can help with thinking about play in different ways, exploring creating an area of the park themed around nature, wildlife and natural play (den building, games using the wind, growing, oversized bird boxes etc) all of which were talked about by the residents who spoke about regularly seeing buzzards and kites in the park.

Traditional play equipment has been burnt, vandalised and destroyed in recent years, so rather than automatically commissioning this kind of equipment, it seems appropriate to think of other ways to approach this expenditure. 'Natural' play could perhaps be more robust and creative. More importantly, if the community take part in creating the natural play space, this might go some way to it not being vandalised (again, this was a view expressed by residents).

We also had a great suggestion from a little girl who suggested putting up an oversized chalkboard so that everyone can draw/play/ and be artists....<http://www.rudybruneraward.org/winners/the-community-chalkboard-and-podium/>



Consultation #3

We are currently in discussion with our partners for two of the micro-commissions, Macclesfield Security In Place, to confirm a date however it will be on the Moss, again reaching out to a new audience.

Library consultation

Activity sheets were produced for the library for the latter part of the summer holidays. Simple instructions enabled children to make a small version of Jacopo's head and they were invited to say what sort of art they'd like to see in Macclesfield. Responses are included in the summary document.



Other consultation methods

Over the summer and going forward:

- An ongoing social media dialogue using examples of public art from the UK and around the world.
- Direct email comms to Barnaby subscribers and partner organisations, cultural and community groups.

Barnaby AIR micro-commissions

A total of four micro-commissions will be delivered over the course of the Barnaby AIR project

Micro-commission #1

First micro-commission will be the creation and completion of a park bench inspired by the consultation process at the Weston. Fabric Lenny will work on this and further discussion and consultation with residents needed as to where it will be permanently sited.

Micro-commission #2

Currently briefing local film-makers Flownamix to catalogue 'light' events (and other aspects of light) that happen around Macc in the winter, linking with the Town Hall projection and the LIT projection trail on the 3rd and 4th December. Exploring how light can work in the town. Potentially informing new Cheshire East lightboxes (although these have been commissioned by CEC without reference to this project).

Micro-commission #3

Currently being formulated. Could refer to a development of the Weston Park ideas as per the consultation feedback (see above).

Micro-commission #4

Scheduled for Barnaby 2022. Arising from the culmination of the consultation process, the map and the manifesto.

Map

The Map was originally due to be delivered by June 2021, however on consultation with project partners (Barnaby and MSIP) we agreed that the consultation should feed directly into its production, identifying places where public art is and where the people of Macclesfield wish to see new artworks. This therefore delayed the map's production to take advantage of Barnaby Bright, Treacle Market and the opening up of Covid restrictions to support consultation methods. Fabric Lenny is designing the concept and format for the map as he gets to know the town better and as he meets more residents through the consultation process. The map will therefore be produced after the 3rd consultation in Autumn, and will be hosted on <https://secondsight.barnabyfestival.org.uk/> and promoted widely through Barnaby and other marketing / mailing lists.

Mandy Martinez/Diana Hamilton, October 2021

Appendix

Barnaby AIR

TREACLE MARKET & LIBRARY CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Statues and sculptures...

Sculptures

Barbara Hepworth sculpture gardens

Sculpture parks

Sculptures in South Park

A gold Super Mario statue as he's my hero

Paintings in shops and sculptures in parks

A statue of a sunflower to make people smile

Statues - what is a statue?

Green...

Sculptural plants and gardens

Garden Design as public art

Wild gardens, designed to look after themselves

Create little pockets of spaces around the town

Heritage Fruit tree project - teach children about orchards and how nature can be calming and healing.

The land...

A land art piece? looking at the geology of an area, perhaps using the stone/aggregate

Look at the topography of Macc - rep generations. "Sheworks Macc" (?)

The very big or the very small. Look at the ground, the importance of the earth. Micro-organism, importance of fungi, slime mould, Book referenced "Entangled Life".

Water features.

Using things from the landscape or features that clearly exist.

Stories & heritage...

Quirky stories, arty, temporary, transitional, with a theme, focused on the community, local history, from different perspectives.

Re-interpreting stories - history and local people.

Engage with history, whether real or not. Myths like dragons in Wales – Dragon Rider.

What makes Macc unique? What represents the town? Reflect rich cultural heritage.

Celebrating heritage through colour and form (not off the shelf - stainless steel stuff)

Stories about people they can connect with.

Story of Treacle Town, humorous, makes people smile - not that well known.

Smaller, incidental stories about people, doesn't always have to be the 'big story'. Not always literal - open to interpretation - pattern, abstract, not always figurative

Roundabouts in Spain with sculptures that connect to local heritage. Gives an impression of a place.

Ambition...

High impact - something that means a lot to people.

Awe and Wonder...

Specifics...

Graphics connected to current issues and themes.

Interactive public art.

Projection mapping - Town Hall. Using buildings and architecture and street level quite ordinary, until you look up.

So dark at night from 6pm, something that lights the dark... ref Malaga seafront, lots of stuff there.

Superheroes, tactile. Sporty/activities, family friendly/jump on, hard wearing....

Abstracts...

Ambiguity - on the edge, on the periphery.

Edgy, contemporary. Stoke - Airspace. The Portland Project

Abstract - shapes, geometric. Water features, fountains.

Anish Kapoor - The Bean. Modern, contemporary, colourful, bright stuff.

Like idea of temporary things popping up.

Smaller, incidental stories about people, doesn't always have to be the 'big story'. Not always literal - open to interpretation - pattern, abstract, not always figurative (*repeat from above*)

Interactive. Happy, vibrant, non-traditional.

Humour, conceptual, interactive - something that gives something back - which the kids get something from.

Art and science - scientist can be an artist. Maths - using patterns.

Opportunities for people to continue education and learning. Books referenced 'Things That Art' (?)

Bird sanctuary off Ivy Lane. St John's School - kids love it - Interactive. Kids involved

Multi-sensory.

No "Do-not's" please.

Hidden spaces...

Activating spaces that are hidden, like 'Backwallgate books'.

Unexpected places, bring a place back into public awareness.

Come across art. Tiles in Paris.

Paris tiles - follow around.

Sites

- The green area on Churchill Way near B&Q roundabout
- Brunswick Hill - highlighted as beautiful
- Artwork in the underpass
- Temporary - move artwork from place to place
- Air raid shelter on Brookfield Allotment - could be an interesting space to engage with and use.
- St Peters has a wildflower garden - interesting to engage with - has a pond and baby frogs.
- Sparrow Park, Step Hill - using the wall
- Bird sanctuary off Ivy Lane. St John's School - kids love it - Interactive. Kids involved.

Other

- There is a gap in arts provision for 13-17yr olds - not a lot tailored for them. Would be nice to have opportunities for them to get to know & socialise with people with similar interests, family activities for families with a wide age range. Activities that sit with school curriculum.
- Anime and cosplay - something to get involved with and a place to be... Pop up activities for older groups too. 6th form at Kings School have their own gallery space.
- Atmosphere at Christmas - love it at Treacle Market - wouldn't miss it. Like events where people are sat down together picnicking and enjoying something together.
- Love buildings in Macclesfield. The atmosphere in the church (St Michaels). Properties keep in with the heritage story of Macclesfield. Love the cobbled streets and iron railings.
- Make sure well-advertised. Facebook and Visit Macclesfield. Victoria Park and West Park - could there be a noticeboard to find out about things.
- More children's activities.
- We live in Manchester, feels like artwork is parachuted in, not relevant to people. People like stories about people they can connect with.
- Creation through destruction....