



Featherstone
Town Council

beam

Artist Brief: Celebrating Featherstone's Mining Heritage Public Art Commission, West Yorkshire



1. SUMMARY

Featherstone Town Council (FTC) are seeking an experienced artist to create a unique, permanent public artwork to celebrate the rich mining heritage of the town that incorporates 2 original mining wheel halves through a sensitive and contemporary approach.

FTC are seeking a bespoke design and are open minded about how the wheels are incorporated. There is an interest in incorporating the use of renewable energy within the artwork through the use of solar / wind power creating a connection between energy of our past and energy of our present/ future.

Budget: £42,000 + VAT

Timeframe: August 2022 - September 2023

Deadline for applications: 9am Monday 25th July 2022

2. CONTEXT

The Town of Featherstone is situated to the south-west of Pontefract in the Wakefield District of West Yorkshire. The 2011 census recorded its population at 15,244.

Like many communities in the area, Featherstone grew up around coal mining, starting with the sinking of the first shaft at Featherstone Main Colliery in 1868. By the end of the 19th century the population had leapt to over 10,000 as the coal industry boomed to feed the industrial revolution. These men were employed in three main collieries operating within Featherstone: Featherstone Main; Ackton Hall; and Snydale as well as two smaller sites: Purston Colliery and Manor Colliery. During the history of the three collieries over 300 men and boys lost their lives at work.

It was the miners' lockout in 1893 during which the town came to national attention when soldiers fired on locked out miners, killing two. The event became known as the Featherstone massacre and a distinctive sculpture marking its centenary stands in Station Lane. A large memorial wall depicting Featherstone's heritage can be seen at the town's main crossroads at the bottom of Station Lane.

Featherstone Town Council see this as an opportunity to celebrate the town's mining heritage through a form that is sensitive, reflective and positive whilst also inspiring the next generation.

Arts organisation Beam has been appointed to manage this commission on behalf of FTC. Beam has a longstanding relationship with FTC having supported the commissioning and fundraising of [War Horse](#) by Cod Steaks and [Fighting From Home](#) by Luke Perry, both sited at Mill Pond Meadows

3. COMMISSION BRIEF

3.1 Overview

The appointed artist must strike a delicate balance between celebrating and commemorating the mining heritage of Featherstone whilst also creating a design that is contemporary and future facing. The artwork will take a physical/ visual three-dimensional form and may incorporate other artforms such as creative writing / poetry/ text. The artwork will be situated on a large grassed area next to a key vehicle gateway into the town which is also used by pedestrians and cyclists. (See photo in Section 5). It is essential that engagement with residents, children and young people is embedded from the start to build local ownership of the project.

3.1 Aims of the commission

- Create an engaging, high quality, bespoke and unique artwork(s) that celebrates Featherstone's mining heritage incorporating the two half mining wheels
- Have a positive impact on the experiences and perceptions of Featherstone residents and visitors
- Create work that will be permanent, robust, vandal resistant, low maintenance and durable for a minimum of 25 years

3.2 Deliverables & requirements

- Documentation of design development (photographic and online), which can be used for publicity and promotional purposes.
- Liaison with and attendance at project meetings with Beam during the process as applicable. *Please note that many communications and meetings can be done remotely.*
- The Artist will be required to (or work with their sub-contractor/s) to design and fabricate their work and liaise with Beam and Featherstone Town Council to ensure all information is available for the planning permission application and any other necessary permissions and risk assessment method statements.
- Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity at levels to be agreed with the appointed artist

Detailed deliverables applicable to each stage are outlined below:

Community Engagement & Design Development

- **Research** into the themes detailed above.
- **Creative consultation and community engagement** to feed into design development
- **Concept design presentation** – visualisations and description of initial ideas, potential materials, outline budget, maintenance considerations

Detailed Design

- Design and Access Statement - The artwork overview, detailed description, scale, timeframe, installation, maintenance requirements, access and decommission plan as applicable.
- Visualisations of artwork in situ.
- Detailed scaled drawings - to include dimensions and material choices.
- Structural engineer report.
- Foundation requirements /specification and drawings.
- Health & Safety and Risk considerations (installation / in-situ).
- Detailed budget (due to rapidly rising materials costs we expect the artist to include a provision for contingency).
- Identified sub-contractors and Public Liability Insurance details.

Fabrication & Implementation

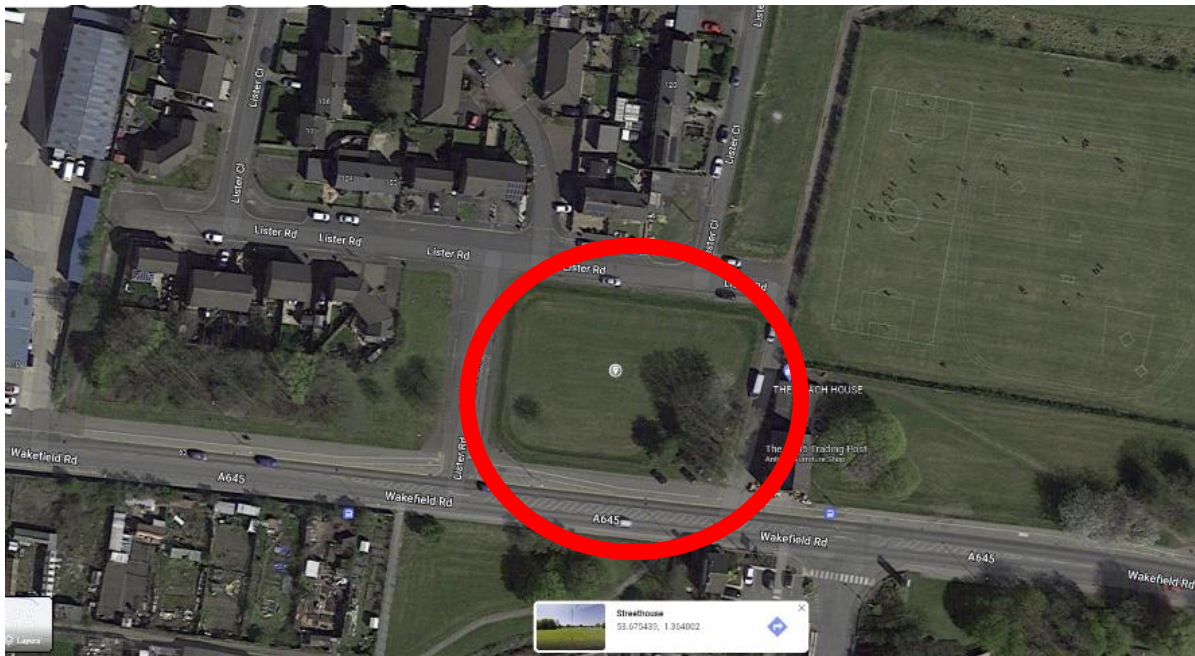
- Sourcing of materials
- Fabrication of work or quality control of subcontractors.
- Installation method statement.
- Installation of work.
- Attendance at launch event (if applicable).
- Attendance at evaluation meeting on completion of the commission.
- Artwork will be permanent and durable for a minimum of 25 years.

4. Considerations



- Featherstone Town Council has acquired 2 original mining wheel halves of different sizes estimated at 18ft 8inch and 14ft 10inch pit wheels. Separate from this budget, FTC will range for the wheel segments to be sandblasted and painted in advance to repair them and for their delivery to site / workshop as appropriate.
- There is an interest in incorporating the use of renewable energy within the artwork through the use of solar / wind power creating a subtle connection between energy of our past and energy of our present/ future.
- We do not want the artwork to require any mains electricity.

5. The Site



Green Space at the side of Wakefield Road/Lister Road



6. OUTLINE PROCESS AND TIMEFRAME

6.1 Public Art Steering Group

The project will be guided by the Featherstone Public Art Steering Group including representatives from Featherstone Town Council, Beam and Featherstone residents.

6.2 Schedule

Activity	Outline Timing
Deadline for proposals	9am Monday 25th July 2022
Artist interviews (in person, Featherstone)	W/c 8th August 2022
Artist appointment	w/c 15th August 2022
Site visit & briefing	w/c 15th August 2022
Artist/s research and concept development & community/schools engagement	August - October 2022
Interim meeting to discuss design development	w/c 19th September 2022
Concept design presentation	w/c 14th November 2022
Artist detailed design refinement period.	November - December 2022
Artist detailed design & methodology presentation	w/c 12th December 2022
Submission of planning application (6-8 weeks)	December 2022 / February 2023
Fabrication period	March - September 2023
Installation (this will be in line with the contractors schedule)	September 2023
Launch event	September 2023
Support content for marketing and PR	Ongoing
Maintenance plans submitted	On completion
Evaluation meeting	On completion

7. ARTIST FEES

Total Budget: Up to £42,000 +VAT if applicable

The appointed artist will be expected to provide a budget breakdown and factor some contingency into their planning.

The budget available will cover all costs associated with the commission including:

- *All artist fees for engagement, design development, fabrication, site visits, project meetings, travel and accommodation expenses etc.*
 - *All materials (including any materials required to support engagement), equipment and subcontractor costs, structural engineer costs, foundations required etc.*
- Payments will be scheduled to align with specific milestones being achieved. All payments to the artists will be made by Featherstone Town Council

8 APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for proposals: 9am Monday 25th July 2022

Your proposal should be made by email to kate@beam.uk.net . You can send your proposal in PDF format or a short video (max 5 minutes), please include the following. *We will acknowledge receipt of all proposals by email.*

- **Contact details:** Name, email, phone, web, social media accounts if applicable.
- **A statement detailing:** why you are interested in the commission; relevant experience, outline of your initial proposal and indicative approach to engagement.
- **Up to 6 relevant examples** of your work including images and accompanying descriptive text. Please include weblinks where appropriate.
- **X2 Referee contact details** (References will only be sought for the selected artist before contracting stage)
- **Format:** Submissions should be 10MB or less. Maximum 8 sides of A4 and saved in PDF format.
- Completion of anonymous Equality and Diversity Monitoring form (this is not compulsory) via this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dzyorwfhfyfbU4n2Dmr7vlyeWB0DA788jDr6BqPkh7b0/edit>

Proposals will be appraised on how well the initial proposal meets the brief and ability to demonstrate relevant experience of delivering high quality projects to brief, time and budget. The decision will be made on the quality of the response as the fee is fixed.

9. Data

Please note by applying for this commission you are consenting to your personal data being shared with Featherstone Town Council and Beam.

10. CONTACT DETAILS

Kate Watson, Principal Consultant, Beam

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