

Committee	Assets & Services / Agenda 12
Month	May 2023
Report Title	Artwork Installation in Saffron Walden
Report Author	Lisa Courtney, Town Clerk
Attachments	Appendix 12a – overview of work as provided by the artists

Background Information:

Essex County Council is funding a county-wide public-art project and the artist has requested to use public/green space in Saffron Walden this summer. The project is funded through ECC's Arts and Cultural Fund, which is supporting a programme of events and activities across Essex.

The project is called 'Modern Mythologies', delivered by artist duo Walter and Zoniel, conceived as a series of site-specific installations in the form of a giant poetic land work; quite literally a poem for Essex that would be written in large-scale lettering on sections of land using a brightly coloured eco-friendly paint (which fades overtime without any impact to wildlife/soil). Spread out across different locations in Essex, each site would feature a sentence from the poem, encouraging visitors to travel between destinations to experience the poem in its entirety. Alternatively, the project will make use of pre-recorded drone footage from each location, so that the artwork could also be experienced digitally or through signage that we be installed at each location. The poem would be made up from submissions that members of the public can contribute to via an online platform (feel free to share): <https://modernmyth.uk>

The art projects will also take place in Jaywick, Chelmsford, Hadleigh, Thorndon and Southend-on-Sea and it is unusual (and an exciting opportunity) for this to also take place in Saffron Walden.

The proposed location is Jubilee Gardens, and the land-work would be installed towards the end of July/beginning of August, and it should hopefully be achievable in 1-2 days.

Below is an illustrative photo of what the artwork will look like:



SWTC has been approached to support this project, in both enabling the artwork to be 'installed' in Jubilee Gardens and also for use of the Jubilee Hub as an active space in providing additional community interaction and involvement in the project. SWTC will further communicate details of the project to local community groups, supporting the ethos of the poem which is to represent thoughts and memories of local residents; they can get involved via the online platform (details as noted earlier).

Recommendation:

To note the contents of this report and to support this art initiative in Saffron Walden.