

Bishopthorpe@Crossroads

Brief for Sensory Garden

A sensory garden is an area purposefully set out in separate beds that provide a wide range of sensory experiences in close proximity. The unused garden next to Bishopthorpe Library is being leased to the Bishopthorpe Millennium Trust for a period of seven years in the first instance. Such an area will provide a valuable site that can be used for relaxation, stimulation or even education, and seating is to be included in the design. This document sets out the requirements for the garden's design and implementation.

Boundaries

The garden is bounded by a panel fence to the south and a hedge to the east side: space should be left to the west side for access to the library and an area suitable for library activities such as story telling. On the north side, the boundary should be designed to flow in to the streetscape in front of the library [see attached plan].

A boundary zone of planting for security and privacy should be provided on the south side (adjoining private property).

The north, street facing, side currently has a low fence. Consideration has been given to the provision of a fence and wide gates to this side (that can be locked as necessary). It is intended that such a fence will be designed in to the plan. A display board will also be constructed around the gas installation. You should suggest how the railings and gate would be laid out to conform to the overall scheme.

Access

The area immediately around the gas installation will be screened from the road by a new display structure; the garden design will allow access to the gas installation. Access to the library side door is required. Access to the whole site for those with disabilities, with wide buggies or powered chairs will be provided.

Landscaping

Areas of hard landscaping will depend on the planting scheme. Materials suitable for use in the conservation area should be suggested in the design, although the Millennium Trust will be able to offer further expertise on the selection of these. Raised beds for those in wheel chairs should be provided. Three separate small areas of the garden should be identified that can be the subject of special designs and responsibility by young people and community groups: one of these will be the site of a small public art project for which special funding is being sought. A position for a litter bin should be indicated [to replace the one on front of the library].

Planting

The planting scheme should meet the need for a sensory approach with all year round interest, and should include details of the cycle of growth and maturity, and the necessary maintenance schedule for the plants. The Council has no objection to the removal of the two trees at the front of the garden. The one at the rear (south) side is close to the boundary and can remain in place [subject to discussion with the adjoining property owner].

A priced list of the plants [including options for more mature specimens] should be provided once the design brief is agreed.

Maintenance of the hard and soft areas will be the subject of separate agreements.

Seating

Seating for at least six people should be built in to the plan. It should be positioned so that it is visible from the road. It is expected that the seating will be constructed within the planting beds. Seating may be subject to personal sponsorship so provision for nameplates is required.

Safety

Consideration should be given in the choice of materials, features, planting etc. to ensuring that the garden minimises hazards. The emphasis should be on simplicity and low maintenance.

Account should be taken of the restrictions on work carried out close to the gas installation [TBA].

Services

Please indicate the need for and type of water supply (for plant watering and cleaning) and external power, and include suggestions for lighting (low energy or solar where possible).

Security lighting, or CCTV may be required – indicate the position and functioning of these.

Signs

A scheme for plant labelling, signs for sponsors names/logos, and for the provision of a name board for the garden [it is intended to name the garden] should be described.

Implementation

A draft design should be submitted to the Crossroads project group by **[date TBA]**. The group will consider the design in conjunction with Brunswick staff [and others as necessary], and after finalisation, the design will be used to draw up an implementation plan with local people, to include amongst others: Brunswick staff and students (supervision of and responsibility for planting; a local builder (QS and supervision of landscaping); the local scouts association and parents; the gardening club; volunteer labourers; library staff. It is expected that young people and others will be involved in some of the planting.

A core budget as follows has been set:

Brunswick	
▪ For plants, soil improvement, bark chippings, preparing and labelling plants, and planting.	£1 500
▪ Design supervision and planting	£400
Project Group	
▪ Raised beds, paving (materials only)	£1 000
▪ Additional building work on access area	£500
▪ Fencing and gate	£1 000
▪ Removal of trees	£1 000

Work will start on the garden once the budget is in place; this will be February 2006.