

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

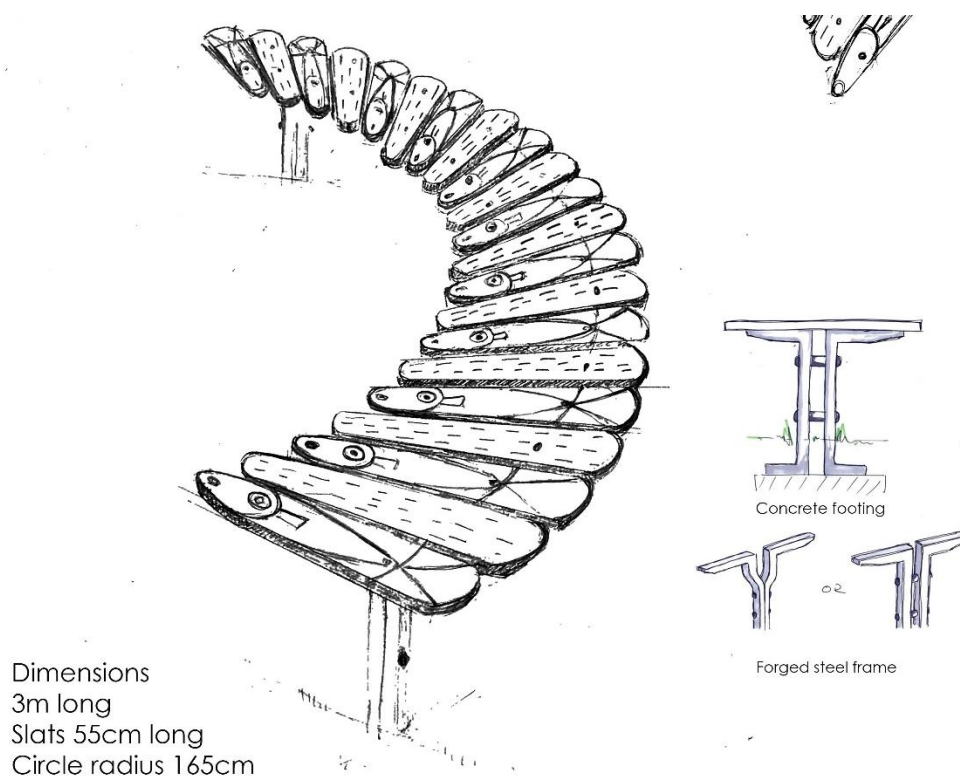
Title:	Public Art Thame
Date:	2 May 2023
Contact Officer:	Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer

Purpose of the Report

1. Following negative feedback from residents who were formally consulted about the proposed location of a bench created as part of the 'Art Leading Wayfinding' project, to approve alternative locations that will be explored for this bench.

Background

2. At the NPCC meeting held on 21st March 2023, the committee approved proposed locations for the installation of various pieces of art as part of the 'Art Leading Wayfinding' project, funded by Section 106 funding for Public Art.
3. Included in this was the location of a bench on The Moat in Lea Park Estate. The design of this bench has been approved and is shown here for your reference:



4. Following this approval, the officer undertook a consultation with residents. This followed feedback from Thame Meadows residents who felt they were not consulted, as well as the potential risk that benches can encourage loitering and perceived or actual anti-social behaviour.
5. A total of 49 leaflets were distributed to every home facing The Moat, giving 2 weeks for residents to respond. In total we received 13 responses against the idea, and from this have therefore decided to identify alternative locations for the bench.

Alternative proposed locations

6. Due to the design of the bench and the connection to the history of The Moat, there are 3 locations that we have identified as alternative locations for this bench. These are:
 - a) The green space that runs alongside the wall on the boundary of the Cattle Market/ Cattle Market car park on North Street. There is opportunity here for either replacing the current bench, or adding a new one.
 - b) Within the footprint of Queen Elizabeth Circle play area
 - c) Within the footprint of Churchill Crescent Play area
7. Our first choice is the location on North street due to the close geographical location to The Moat. The bench would be installed in a way that allows for easy relocation as and when the Cattle Market Car Park is re-developed.

Recommendation:

- i) To approve the proposed alternative locations for the bench*
- ii) To authorise the installation of the bench at one of these locations, following relevant permissions and consultations processes being received/completed*