



Augusta Open Space, An Active and Participative Public Consultation March to May 2015

Images and details on activities delivered during the project can be found at
www.augustaopenspace.co.uk

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I. Executive Summary

1.A VISION

Under the Section 106 agreement for the development Augusta Park, sited at East Anton, Andover, not more than two items of public art, craft or decoration are to be provided by the Borough Council within an area or areas of open space'. In order to develop the artist's brief for this work, and in line with its Public Art Strategy, Test Valley Borough Council commissioned artist and Art consultant **Laurence Dube-Rushby** to carry out a program of community engagement to involve the residents on the site in developing ideas.

2.AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To engage residents through a series of creative workshops, discussions, consultations
- To explore themes related to the history of the place and its community through a variety of media.
- To compile a report making recommendations for an artist's brief for two works of public art sited in open space, one in the north and one in the south of the development.

3. Shaping the project

The project was tailored to the community and its existing connections, groups and interests, to provide three phases of engagement **Inspire, Create and Aspire**.

The artists involved immersed themselves in the existing cultural and social landscape to map the current community living on site and understand how to best reach the residents.

- **Key resources:**

The **temporary Community Centre** served as a starting point for most of activities and as an information point.

The **Community Development Worker Kristina Choules** acted as a liaison between the project and the groups.

The Test Valley Borough Council Arts Officer Faye Perkins was appointed at the start of project and served as a liaison between the Augusta Open Space, the press, the council and the community Officer.

Andover Tree association, managed by **Wendy Davies**, was involved from the start of the project; Laurence Dube-Rushby and Wendy Davies identified the opportunity for collaboration between the two projects as the tree planting was in progress on the estate during the months of January to April.

APCA (Augusta Park Community Association) was a precious link to their 800 email members on the estate. They also helped distribute more than 1200 leaflets in the first day of project (covering all the existing occupied homes of the estate)

The Iron Age Museum collaborated with the project; a visit of the museum opened a lot of discussions and new ideas for the artwork. The museum was also involved in the school project to introduce the idea of museum display to the children.

Background history of the Housing Development ; See appendix 1

Other artists involved;

Judith Rodger, artist; helped design and deliver the activities with Laurence throughout the full project.

Samantha Holland, Story Teller; was involved in preparations and in delivering the Bee Stories day and in the discussions.

Chess Mc Clean, Illustrator; was commissioned a special tree design to use for engaging the groups in evaluations during each activities.

Kate Dalton, Historical re-enactor; was involved in bringing history to life during the Mini Museum day.

A portable Banner sign-posted the artists' presence on site during each activity.

2000 leaflets shaped as a postcard inviting people to take part and answer (also doubling up as a raffle ticket to win a unique artwork during our discussion) were printed and handed out during the project.

- **Key achievements;**

1200 leaflets were delivered to 1200 homes (all of the current existing homes on the estate) within the first day of the project, thanks to APCA.

Via the school project, **322 children** and their families were informed about the project as well as invited to take part in a collection of familiar objects for our final Mini Museum. Of which **47 bags** with objects and stories were returned from homes to become part of the collection.

The overall programme of activities involved **more than 375, participating actively to discussions, activities, games or visits.**

A small group of 10 dedicated residents became strong and confident in discussing artwork and the possibilities and wishes for the community at Augusta Park. They will act as ambassadors for the community during the process of commissioning the artwork. The group is representative of a wide age range, backgrounds and abilities.

Our **Facebook** page managed **over 600** reach as well as links with more than **800** people on the estate via the APCA page and links at each event advertised. We also reached further members of the **Andover Community** via links with the **Chapel Arts Studio**, the **Andover Town network** and **Mums in the Know**.

We tested the new **Test Valley Art Foundation Art Bus** during our Mini Museum event with great success and many ideas were collated for future use.

- **Key Insights;**

The residents feel strongly about their estate; in a lot of cases, they left a home in another part of the country to consciously move to Augusta Park in view of getting a better life which includes cheaper and bigger home, a strong community spirit, good neighbourhood, great facilities and jobs.

The landscape is a great factor for people to have chosen to come and live on the estate. The landscape is part of the residents' life as they walk, play run, cycle and watch it grow or change.

The residents were touched by the **history that lays beneath their feet;** some discovered it, others developed new knowledge of it. All felt very strongly about integrating the themes of Romans, Saxons and medieval farming in the art works to be commissioned.

Residents have **great interests in relating to their neighbouring estates;** there is great consciousness of the loss of landscape that the last estate may have incurred when Augusta Park was started. There is a strong wish to link rather than divide.

Residents are conscious of the loss incurred by the **Smannell village** inhabitants when the

road was deviated.

During discussions, people developed a wish to involve the people from Smannell and considered that they might benefit from the art works that may be placed along their new right of way to the village.

Some **divides already exist** within the new estate at this stage. The divides are geographically visible (roads and green spaces). A sense of loss can be felt in this, however, **a sense of possibilities to change these divides was strongly expressed.**

II.Introduction



Harmony Wood gathering, adjacent to Augusta Park

1. The approach;

Augusta Open Space was an art project designed by artist and art consultant **Laurence Dube-Rushby**.

The project offered a program of art activities across Augusta Park housing estate during the months of March to May 2015.

The aim was to engage a representative range of residents in conversations and activities nurturing **creative thinking, social interaction, identity building** within the estate, as well as **strengthening existing connections to create a sense of place and history.**

Residents were invited to consider how art might enhance the life at Augusta Park. The activities were designed to help define what people want from two public art works which will be commissioned for the estate.

2. Three phases of engagement

The project presented 3 phases of engagement as follow;

- **Inspire**; looked at the history of the site and area as well as a previous art project, which was delivered at the school and with over 50's group, the Augustians.
- **Create**; aimed to develop connections between the residents, their land and various art forms in order for them to gain an insight into art through physical engagement and grow confidence in discussing and sharing their views about public art.
- **Aspire**; invited the residents to visualise the future of their estate including the art works placed within their community. The participants gained a sense of the landscape and its potential, within and around the estate while engaging in walks and talks during activities.

“Contemporary art usually requires you to think, to reflect, to place yourself into the position of asking questions” Gill Nicol (a-n)

Each phase presented an opportunity to raise questions about the purpose of a work of art within the landscape and the life of the community.

3. Who was consulted?

The project aimed at consulting members of the community that would represent the spectrum of residents at Augusta Park.

The activities were open to all. The program also insured that some activities would reach people who would otherwise not engage easily by walking all around the estate, talking to people door to door and meeting people within existing groups and school.

Following the program of existing community groups, Augusta Open Space offered activities tailored for each group. This was a great way to start engaging with the community and enabled further events to be organised and advertised.

Groups visited were as follow;

- Augustians (over 50's group) meeting weekly
- Children art and craft group; weekly group
- Crafty Chatters; weekly group
- Army family coffee morning; weekly meeting
- APCA meetings; monthly meeting
- Endeavour school

These are the people we worked with over the full project;

- Primary School children
- Parents of young families
- Parents of youth
- Youth (small proportion at Augusta)
- Over 50's
- Elderly
- Dog walkers

- Older resident who lived in East Anton Farm before the construction of the estate
- Residents who followed the planning of the estate
- Temporary residents
- Wheelchair users
- Army families
- Partially sighted
- Children with special need
- Resident in full time employment
- Unemployed
- People from Andover
- People who moved especially to settle at Augusta Park.
- People from various ethnic background; British, French, Spanish, polish, Asian, others

III. Defining a background for the artist brief

1. The subject

a. History;

The land where Augusta Park is built has for centuries been agricultural, and was crisscrossed by ancient paths and roads down which farmers would have driven their livestock to market. The themes for this project will be drawn from this history; the idea of lost paths and the influence agriculture would have had on the development of ancient settlements at East Anton. Archaeology reveals remains of many different animals: pigs/hogs/hunting dogs/deer/ horse bones/bronze figurine of bird. Contemporary connections to this history can be found in the name Smannell (Augusta Park falls within the parish of Smannell) which is thought to mean ‘the place of the swineherds’, a clearing in the forest where pigs were encouraged to grub out trees and undergrowth. Also in the names of the roads and streets in the new neighborhood, which all relate to agriculture, the land and farming.

A history group was started with the Augustians group; a **History Box** remains with the group and is being completed by the participants.

The box contains a book in which people can add their research as well as other stories.

The Swinherd Story created by Nicola Henshaw during a previous art project was used as a starting point for story telling.(appendix 2)

Our story teller, Samantha Holland, also created a story “ **The Lost Bush**” to inspire the residents to explore their landscape during our treasure hunt.(see appendix 3)

Leucomagus - The Great Shining;

More information on the history of East Anton can be found at;

<http://www.roman-britain.org/places/leucomagus.htm>

“ For us, it was the Roman section that we liked best. Romans are especially associated with East Anton...”

Main findings and recommendation;

The residents have a **strong attachment to the Roman and Saxons** connection. This is originated by the naming of the streets and the different sections of the estate (The Roman ways, Chariots, Augusta Park, Saxons Heights...).

The roman roads crossing the estate are an important part of this history; a sense of journey is attached to it. Residents also have a consciousness that this has been a meeting place for a long time, gathering communities from different backgrounds and origins.

The street names for the Phase 1 of development have an agricultural theme. Phase 1a have been named with arable farming theme and Phase 1b with a woolen industry theme. Others follow the roman themes or are named after main ancient pathways.

The residents want the historical themes to be represented within the artwork.

It was suggested that moments of different part of history over the ages would be represented in the design. This could be done in different shapes (see suggestions from residents)

The History Box should be a great source of inspiration for the artwork. The box will be kept by the Augustians group who meet regularly at the Community Centre.

b. Community

To create connections with ancient history, we asked people to tell us their story.

Three activities helped us define where people come from as well as spark the imagination of the residents to create new stories in relation to the history of the place.

- **“Stories for the Bees”**; first outdoor event with story telling, inviting people to look around and define what they see, what they have and what is their story. (see website and Appendix 4)
- **“Lost and Found Sheep post”**; asked people: “where were you before you came to Augusta Park?”
- **“History Box”**; based at the Community Centre with the Augustians group.

The community of Augusta Park is mixed between over 50's who have moved to Augusta from another nearby development and young families who have chosen to relocate from elsewhere in the country to get a better home and a sense of community.

Many residents have moved to settle in the long term and are willing to commit to the building of a community spirit.

This generates a sense of safety; neighbourhood watch, a Community Association, 3 safe play parks, a litter and dog poo pick up days show how people care for their estate.

50 homes are owned by the ministry of Defense and are occupied by more temporary families who have a great need for integration in the community.

These families have a great interest in creating memories for their children within art projects and art works.

The recent opening of the new Community Centre is a great asset to the place and will be able to host events and groups formed on the estate.

The building of the second school from original plans have been put on hold and may not happen despite the large number of children currently attending Endeavor school.

Endeavor school welcomes children from the estate but also from the neighboring estate The Roman Ways.

The Roman Ways community has different needs. More than 50 families based there rely on food banks, some young people have been expelled from school, they can be seen as a withdrawn community. The residents have move from more central points in Andover as a town overspill. The people there have mostly been in Andover for a long time.

As an older estate, the youth group is larger than the one in Augusta Park (very few young people at Augusta). The main meeting point for youth is at the Skate Park located on Smannell road at the bottom of Roman Ways.

The play park situated behind the New Community Centre, welcomes the children from the nearby communities too. **The Roman Ways Estate and Augusta Park also share a road; Icknield Way.**

“ We call it East Anton, not Augusta or Chariots, or Roman Ways. It’s all like one place, one community.”

The residents of all nearby estates as well as the Smannell village residents use the pathways and green spaces of the estate.

Smannell Road; the road deviation of the original Smannell road, now forces Smannell village residents to drive through Augusta Park.

Resentment is felt from both Smannell residents who have to go through the housing estate and the resident of Augusta Park who endure the traffic. The Smannell village pub is the only public house in the vicinity and is used by Augusta Park residents. The “Lost piece of Smannell road” was part of the ancient roman road.

Recommendation;

The residents have expressed interest in liaising with the neighbouring estate and taking them in consideration in the shaping of the artwork.

St Paul's Community Centre acts as a link for the Roman Ways Community. There is a strong need for bridging the two communities.

At present, resentment can be felt from Roman Ways; Augusta Park is seen as a place that has invaded their countryside.

However, Augusta Park also responds to the needs of the Roman Ways residents with added facilities such as play parks, new shops, school, green spaces and nursery. This is recognized by both communities.

The Augusta Park resident want the Roman Ways residents to benefit from the Artwork as well. This should be taken into consideration in the design and the location of the artwork.

It was mentioned that the residents of Smannell village should benefit from the artwork as well. (A Smannell village resident could join the selection committee)

c. Landscape

The landscape around Augusta Park is a great asset to the place and is one of the most popular reasons for people to have chosen to live there.

The green spaces designed on the development are focused to look outwards onto the nearby countryside.

The residents wish to preserve and enhance the surrounding landscape.

Andover Trees Association has planted thousands of trees, which will become part of the landscape over the years. Harmony Wood was created on the edge of Augusta Park to provide woodland for the future generations. The trees were planted by school children from all over Andover.

A very large oak tree has been used as a symbol during the project; the tree, situated near the school is currently on the edge of the built area. However, in the next few months, more houses should come to surround it.

Recommendation;

- There is a unanimous wish for natural materials to be used within the artwork such as wood, stone, ceramic, metal...
- The residents would like the artwork to be "integrated in the landscape rather than clash".

- It was also suggested that the artwork could incorporate a growing and living part that could be taken care of by a community of keen gardener. Some residents expressed the wish to have a responsibility towards the artwork and its maintenance/development.
- It has been observed that the **Oak tree** has a positive effect on the community. It is a landmark, a gathering place, a shelter. It was suggested that the effect the artwork would have on the community should be equal/stronger than the effect created by the Oak tree. The oak tree has been there forever whereas the artwork will arrive as a new piece. This could be integrated in the thinking process of the work.

2. The Object

a. Why do we need an artwork?

The activities offered within the project invited people to be involved in the art and have the opportunity to realise how art can make them feel. The workshops included **Farm animal felt making**, **Precious Augusta** was showing people technics for gilding various objects of interest from daily life, history and the from the land. **3D clay making to think of possible artwork shapes, 2 D designs, sketches and notes**,

Here are the responses from participants when asked how they felt when seeing an artwork or when making art;

“Joyful, Relaxed, Chuffed, Connected, Epic, Excited, Special, Smiley, Crazy, Happy, Thoughtful, Heartwarming, Peaceful, Colorful, Loving, Cheerful, Astonished, Small, Big, Amazed, Fresh, Surprised...”

“Linking the past present and future of the estate”;

Augustatic; The workshops delivered at the school and at the Community Centre, with the children, informed the research in an invaluable way, representing the views of the younger generation who will see the development grow and will create memories.

Whilst the project explored the history of the site, it also aimed at creating a vision for the future, inviting the children to project themselves in 50 years time and visualize the artwork and the community around it.

They were invited to collect objects that are special to them, imagining that the collection would become part of the history of the place in the future. A mini Museum was created with the collection, giving an opportunity to discuss the importance of shaping, displaying and preserving such a collection.

a
sense of
fun and
adventure

(view all responses on website; www.augustaopensapce.co.uk)

The children presented their views on a possible artwork, created 3D shapes, and picked their star wish for the artwork. (more children artwork can be viewed on our website)

“ I wish that the artwork would remind people of how lucky they are to have such a wonderful place to live”

Georgina Scarrot

“ I wish not to be scared to go into Augusta Park”

“ I wish for peace and calm and allotments”

“ I wish there was a ginormous climbing frame”

b. What for?

It was strongly defined by the residents during numerous discussions that the Artwork should have a sense of purpose for the community. The main criteria mentioned were as follow;

- Interactive
- Bring people together; a meeting place where events could be created around the work.
- A landmark
- Create a sense of journey
- A sense of fun
- Exploratory
- A sense of adventure
- Represent the history of the place
- Represent the community
- Have a visual Impact
- Get people talking
- Be a permanent feature so people can create memories and come back to it.
- Be nurturing for the community
- Look at what we have in a different way (view finders)
- Generate a sense of preciousness

- Generate a sense of respect for the landscape
- Get people thinking
- Get residents to feel part of something bigger
- Create links with Andover Town
- Create links with neighboring estate and village
- Create a sense of belonging
- Make you feel special
- A sense of value
- A vision for the future

c. Who for?

The artwork should be aimed at the residents of Augusta Park and the neighboring estates and village while responding to the above purpose.

It would therefore need to be

- Inclusive of all ethnicity found on Augusta Park (British, Spanish, German, Asian, Polish were identified during the project)
- Inclusive and not critical of any religion, belief or faith
- Interactive
- Intellectually and physically Accessible to children, young people, parents, elderlies, disabled, visually impaired, wheelchair users.
- For the generations to come

“What we have now is precious”

4. Relation to the core values of the Test Valley Art Strategy

The project was designed with the Test Valley Arts Strategy in mind. The activities related to the core values. The core values also directed the discussions with residents and helped them to also add their own values.

a. Relation to Place; A strong wish to belong

The residents are very attached to their landscape and have learnt about the history of the place during the process of the project.

“ I want something to go back to. We moved a lot over the years with army requirements. I want something that the children can go back to and call theirs.”

A Large part of the residents have chosen to live and settle at Augusta Park for a long time. The visit at the Iron Age Museum following our discussions on history gave a sense of place in a larger historical context.

“ Roots are important. People have travelled a lot before they came here. We could have something that would grow as part of the artwork. Something that helps us to root here.”

The communities, which have gathered at East Anton site, came here following Ancient pathways from all over Europe. Maps of the different roads over the ages have given life to the history when visiting the museum.

(audio files from our visit can be found in the project archives).

The people of Augusta Park have a sense of pride and ownership over this history. They feel part of it and are conscious that their children will be making memories to become part of the history of the place.

“ Augusta Feels separate from the town. It would be great to have something that creates a link with Andover Town.”

b. Relation to People

A Great sense of community and involvement;

People are interested to relate to the artwork in several ways;

- An artwork that reflects who they are
- A place that relate to their preferred activities (see list below)
- A place to meet
- A place they can look after,
- A place that welcomes seasonal events
- A place that they find ownership over
- An artwork that can be about them
- Create a sense of safety
- Gets people talking
- A place where we can sit and talk

“ I wish for a beautiful, litter and poo free Augusta Park and a continued community Spirit”

People were asked to define what activities they take part in or wish to take part in at Augusta Park;

Walk, run, cycle, chat, play, meet, dog walk, Treasure hunt, art workshop, coffee

mornings, Augustians meetings, APCA, school pick up, play in the park, tree planting

“ A mothering figure, to look after our community”

- The residents at Augusta Park have expressed a wish to create a strong community. APCA, the community Association, has been created and is running and managing the new Community Centre as well as the different existing groups.
- Residents have expressed their interest in being involved in the decision making during the choice of the artists who will create the commissions.

c. Accessibility

The residents expressed the wish to be able to relate to their artwork intellectually but also physically.

They suggested that **texture** would be a great part of the work so visually impaired people would enjoy it to.

A sensory aspect, including lights, water, textures was favored as it opens doors for including all people and brings people to the site of the artwork.

50 houses on the estate are equipped with disabled access facilities.

The work should also provide physical access to it in the shape of a path.

The work should be intellectually accessible for all age range and abilities and could offer different levels of understanding.

“ An abstract shape can spark the imagination and can lead to different interpretations. This could get people talking, but it needs to fit in.”

d. Interactivity

It was defined that interactivity can be interpreted in different ways when looking at artworks around the world.

“ I like that it is interactive. Would like something that changed with the season”

“ We need something that the children can interact with, jump on, climb over, touch, feel, smell, with a bench for adults to congregate”

“ Something that gets people talking is interactive”

“ Something that we can feel, touch, smell...”

“ Something that grows; we would look after it, we are keen gardeners here at Augusta”

“ Something we can look through, climb over, walk under...”

“ Something that we can look into, like a mirror, and it would reflect the landscape and the community around.”

“ A cabinet of curiosity, representing what people like and what people do.”

“ Something that you can touch and play with”

“ Something educational. Including words...”

“ Something to show directions, like a compass, a map...”

“ What if the work interacted with the elements here, like the wind. It’s always

- very windy here. It could even be audible.”
- “ lighting should be integrated so it can attract people at night too and make us feel safe.”
- “ A trail of some sort to lead you to it from different areas of the estate, as the poetry trail at Rooksbury Park/Mill.”

d. Aesthetic integrity

A sense of aesthetic was put forward as a priority. During the discussions, we tried to define what Aesthetic means to the people of Augusta;

- “ Should be made with natural materials to be part of landscape, not clash with it.”
- “ Should be natural and fit in with the environment”
- “ Should be biootiful, calm and pretty”
- “ Well made and of robust materials”
- “ Beautiful shapes, colours and things.”
- “ Made in materials that are in line with history and the theme.”
- “ Bright Colours and fun but NO GRAFFITI”
- “ About Nature”
- “ It could even be ugly, but it should get people talking”.

e. The people’s core values

The residents added their own core values as follow;

1. A Strong Impact;

People wish for the artworks to have a strong impact.

- **A Visual Impact;** colours, large scale, visible site for all of the residents and nearby estates.
- **A community impact;** bring people together, get people talking, becomes a event, meeting place, becomes a talking point, a sense of pride, something people share and own.

2. Permanence;

Residents would like the work to remain on site in the long term. They wish for the artwork to become part of memories shared, for their children to have a place to return to and remember.

3. Safety;

The residents wish for their artwork to be safe to be around but also to create a sense of safety.

Concerns were expressed over an artwork that would gather groups of young people at nights and create a place where other residents do not feel safe to walk through. On the other side they also considered that if the artwork gathered young people at night this could be a positive point.

5. Defining an approach for the Artwork

Different opinions were expressed as to defining an approach and the way residents should be involved in the process.

3 trends were identified;

- **Involving residents in the making of the work;**

During discussions, we showed people a range of public art projects across the world. The possibilities of having residents making the work, or part of the work was then mentioned. Some people were keen. Others mentioned that this process might compromise the strength and quality of the artwork.

People keen to make the work were specifically thinking of a possible growing part of the work as living willow or sensory garden.

- **Involving residents in the design;**

This second way of involving people was mentioned during discussions and workshops. The participants to our workshops and activities gained a an understanding of what an artwork could do for their community while being involved in making art themselves.

They enjoyed being part of the process and many expressed their wish to continue taking part in workshops that would “make them think and discuss things”. They were keen to be possibly involved in further consultation over the design of the artwork.

- **Involving residents in the selection process;**

This option was greatly favored by the residents. The participants gained great confidence in talking about possible public artworks for their housing estate. Over the course of the project, some people from different groups came strongly as potential members of a selection committee which would be involved in the decision making when choosing the artwork

6. Defining the Location for the Art works

Defining the location for the artwork was closely related to defining what an artwork should do for the community.

Bringing people together and discovering their estate;

“I like artwork that you discover. That could be hidden in the trees. In Germany we visited parks where you discover the art, its a bit like geocaching and encourages people to see more of the area. It is a bit like looking for treasure where the art is dispersed about to find.”

Corner of Interest: We invited people to post their images on our Facebook page to share the various part of the estate that they cherish, walk to and enjoy. This help to inform the possible sites where people would like to see an artwork as well as highlight what people look at and enjoy.(The photographs can be seen on the website)

Many residents mentioned a poppy field; the field was a part of the estate that will now be built on. It seemed to have **appeared suddenly** and attracted people’s eyes. It even became a

place where people walked to, met by chance and engaged conversations over. Every resident we spoke to has a picture of it on his or her phone or at home.

“This sudden appearance and the momentum it created had a very strong impact on the residents. It was suggested to replant a poppy field or use planting as part of or around the artwork. This could also be interpreted as a colourful visual impact in the landscape that provoked conversation and interest.”

A Geo Cache Treasure Hunt was designed to reflect on the shape of the estate, help visualize the future estate as one place, create pathways, **and identify the Paths of Desire** that would appear within the site when residents would walk on the land.

This helped people to discover new places, visit the unknown part of the estate, discover new view points, corners of interest and possible walk ways, including links to the town. People also gained an insight into what they call “ **The other side**”.

It was interesting to see that the treasure attracted **new residents** of the estate who joined as a way to find out what’s on and meet new people as well as discover and gain a sense of place.

Augusta Park has been recently built. The estate was designed in three parts; the chariots, Augusta and The Saxon Heights. The 3 parts of the building program means that people arrived at the estate at different times (some of which is yet to be built). This has, from start created some divides in the community.

People from one area tend to talk about “**the other side**”. The recent cut and deviation of the old Smannell road has brought the two sides closer together with a green now joining them. This part of the road closure as caused controversy over time and has caused resentment from Smannell villagers.

It also gave us the opportunity to engage in conversation with residents of the **older East Anton Farm site**. One house still remains in the middle of the estate. Building sites, greens, new businesses in the old farm premises and a playground have surrounded the house. One of the two residents, an elderly man, was very eager to tell his story but was not so keen on the arrival of the estate.

Recommendations for the artworks sites;

First potential site;

Last year’s summer fete was based on the Smannell green. The location appeared a successful choice.

We held our Mini Museum conclusive event on the green to test the potential and open the discussions.

The space came strongly as one of the potential sites for the artwork. The exact location would need to be further discussed and defined.

Second potential site; the green adjacent to the playground situated at the back of the new Community Centre was mentioned for the second site.

It is a pathway linking the different parts of Augusta Park as well as leading to Roman Ways. Many children and parents use the path daily to get to school.

The site has potential for an artwork that would **create a sense of journey such as trail**, a treasure hunt, to get people to find the work and walk further in the landscape.

It is situated on the edge of the cricket field and sport pavilion planned for the estate. It is the start of many walks and leads towards Harmony woods.

If designed as a trail, it could include the main Oak tree.

6. Defining recommendations for the form; Do's and Don'ts

a. Style and possible shape;

Residents were very attached to keeping with the Roman theme inspired by mosaics, coliseums and Roman figures.

The discussions lead to opening towards possible abstract shapes that would take inspiration from these.

The Do's; shapes in favor were as follow;

- **An arch** (a coliseum) to act as a door to new possibilities
- **A compass** that would represent different directions and different moments of history
- **A Bridge** to bring communities together
- **A spiral shape/circle shape** as it is safe and inviting
- **A trail**, to give a sense of direction
- **Columns**
- **A coliseum** with growing willows
- **A very large bench** to invite people to sit together and create events around
- **A giant tree**
- **A shelter**
- **A range of standing stones** like Stonehenge but with our stories and history
- **Animal shapes**
- **Shapes to do with Nature**
- **Needs to be big so it can have a visual impact.**

The Don'ts; rejected Shapes;

- It was clearly stipulated that the work should **not look like a wall** as this would create more divides and would not invite people to gather.
- **No Graffiti**; the community rejected the idea of a painted artwork as this may look like graffiti and might invite to more graffiti and vandalism. (Bright colours were not rejected if they fit with the theme and the landscape)
- **No Memorial**; we were informed that APCA has managed to secure a £20000 pot of funding to create a memorial garden for the armed forces families. Therefore, it was decided that the artwork should not act as a memorial site or duplicate the current project. (More information can be found via APCA)

b. Materials and mediums

Natural materials are in great favor with most residents of all generations. These should be

robust and durable.

The following materials were discussed;

Favored materials/mediums (it was discussed that these could be mixed)

- **Wood**
- **Stones**
- **Metal**; could be Bronze and could also include some gold/gold leaf...
- **Growing willow**
- **Mosaics** were mentioned as a possibility in relation to the roman theme but it was also mentioned that it has been seen a lot, therefore should present novelty and a different approach to mosaic.
- **Ceramic**

“The materials could relate to other parts of the world to create a sense of journey.”

Rejected materials;

- **Concrete**
- **Graffiti**
- **Plastic**
- **Unnatural looking materials**
- **Non robust materials**

V. Conclusion

1. A selection Committee

Over the course of the project, some residents came strongly as potential members for a selection committee which would be involved in the decision making during the commissioning process. The people have followed the project and developed an understanding of the purpose and possible future of the artwork commissioned for the site.

The group represents a range of residents including children. The list could be extended.

Recommended members

Lin Grist
Lesley Eastwood
Carol Payne
Brian Payne
Jo Coomer
Hugh Coomer(child)
Fiona Irwin
Molly Irwin(child)
Sarah Smith

2. Other Recommendation and Suggestions; Linking the two projects with a Time Capsule

The mini museum;

The mini museum day on May 25th concluded the project at Augusta Park; all objects and stories created and collected during the activities were exhibited in the museum space set in the Test Valley Art Bus.

A presentation by the Iron Museum and a re-enactor completed the collection and brought history in the present.

The project and its various activities created memories for the residents who are newly settled at Augusta Park.

The day was an opportunity to bring together all the pieces of the project and create new discussion.

We asked people; “What will you preserve from your life at Augusta?”

Some Answers;

“ We have some had some amazing memories that will never be forgotten, no matter how the land changes.”

“ Love that we are moments away from nature, good community spirit and BBQs on Cowslip green”

“Poppies and oak trees” ...” hedgerow walks”

“ Friends and neighbours”

“ Having my own artwork in a museum... for a day”

Shaping ideas for
the Artwork

Recommendation;

It is suggested that some elements of the collection could become part of a **Time Capsule** that would be buried near the artworks. The collection could be made of objects, texts, stories, and photographs representing what will become the memories of the future.

There is a strong wish for the residents to carry this forward.

An archive box will be handed over to the Test Valley Arts Officer and will be available for the residents to come and select objects from. **The Art Committee** will be a good link to make this happen.

A box could be commissioned as part of the artwork commissioning process to host Augusta's treasures.

A Date could be set in 50 years time for the box to be unearthed in order to give a sense of perspective towards the future of the Artwork and the estate.

“I feel really strongly about the children's experiences and memories of watching the estate being built, moving in and creating the community through their routes of play, walking to school, meeting up on scooters and bikes, and doing your geo cache trail and other treasure hunts... and what the real treasure is going to be as they grow and the community grows and changes, the shared networks and routes through life this will create.”

Jo Coomer

The website will also act as a live memory of the project. www.augustaopenspace.co.uk

3. Useful contacts and links; (see Appendix 6)

Sarah Smith: Public Relations Manager, The Discovery Federation
(Knights Enham Junior School, Roman Way Primary School & Endeavour Primary School)

Nicky Armstrong; Chairman, APCA, member of the school PTA

Anna Robinson; Community Worker at St Paul's Community Centre.

4. Evaluative Conclusion

The project stretched over 3 months gave the artists time to integrate the community and become part of the landscape at Augusta Park.

The fact that we walked around the site rather than stay in one place helped to reach a wide range of people.

The variety of activities presented offered more than one way in the consultation; this helped people develop confidence to respond and take part over the 3 months of the project.

We reached, on average about 45 people for each activity presented. This was less than

expected. We arrived early in the construction of the development; the main community Centre was not open yet. No shopping centre was yet built.

This meant that some of our activities based at the temporary Community Centre would have had greater capacity as well as visibility if held at the New Community Centre and advertised at shopping centre.

APCA, the Augusta Park Community Association members were engaged in administrative negotiations to take over the new Community Centre. This meant that they did not have much time to engage in the project as residents and as an organization. They gave us all the help they could to advertise the project.

On a positive note, each activity attracted participants that had not engaged yet in another part of the project.

Some of the participants who engaged with us were very new and used the project as a way to discover their estate and their community.

The temporary Community Centre offered a base to the project which was otherwise based outdoor. We benefited from access at most time, storage, displays, advertising space and exhibition corner.

This was of mutual benefit as it was noted by the residents that the project improved the look of the temporary space.

Recommendation;

A wider reach for consultation may be improved by a project like this being held at later stage in the construction of a housing development.

Residents found difficult to picture the final shape of the built areas, the green spaces which would remain, and the landscape around, as bulldozers and bear fields were still covering a large part of the area.

The Walks and Talks as well as the map presented for the treasure hunt helped visualise this.

Appendix 1; Housing Development History and background

Appendix 2; The Swinherd Story

Appendix 3; The Lost Bush Story

Appendix 4; Activities evaluation sheets

Appendix 5; Presentation What Art for My Park? What is public Art

Appendix 6; Useful contacts and links