

Method statement

Designer

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3 The Drive
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A garden of Contemplation -Theme

The cenotaph with its list of local men who gave their lives in the world wars, the nearby memorial to one of the city's key social historical figures, the library with its debt to Alderman Fletcher Moss and American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and other close landmarks such as the Emmanuel church, not to mention shops, pubs and homes, remind us of the people and events both local and global that have shaped and continue to shape the communities in this town and city.

The garden itself of course reminds us of our relationship with nature, it's relationship with our built environment, and how valuable and fragile we now know these things to be.

For these reasons the theme selected for the garden of contemplation is "Ripples"

"In quiet times we can ponder on how our lives affect those around us and how they affect us. Our lives, our loves and friendships, even our very health and longevity: how we are all connected by our actions, their overlapping waves creating results far beyond what we see.

As we watch the effects of these choices we make in our present world - of friendship and endeavour, collaboration and conflict, care and commitment, we can reflect on how they will affect the futures of others just as those of the past have affected ours. The way we view the world, the things we value send ripples across both years and miles.

We see in this space those who have come before us have bought our freedoms with their sacrifice. We also know in this thriving town how much is owed to those who give and have given of themselves in so many ways to this community, and how that is echoed in other communities across this and other lands."

Environment and sustainability (See materials and components statement for more detail)

Recycled Plastic benches and bench backs

Recycled Plastic Lumber (RPL) uses 100% recycled plastics from domestic and commercial waste, requiring only a third of the energy that new plastic uses in its production and is 100% recyclable after its original intended use

Paving

The primary building material is new cut Yorkstone from small, low impact quarries in the nearby Pennine hills. The remaining paths are in resin bound gravel providing a durable easy access surface whilst remaining SuDs compliant. Also included is local limestone gravel strips as the base for walk on planting giving fast drainage to the paved areas.

Slopes and drainage

The site has a natural slope of about 1:33 Eastwards from the back towards Wilmslow road so drainage falls can be naturally achieved. Crossfalls on paths of no more than 1:100 will be used and on wider areas and longitudinal falls a 1:33 fall will be used. Large areas of paving have been avoided, with very short falls to planting areas. The soil is free draining without clay so will accept a significant amount of rainfall and runoff. Resin bound gravel is SuDs compliant and so the surface will accept a proportion of rainwater in those areas. Additional drainage in very high rainfall drainage can be achieved using the available gulleys on the adjacent part of Wilmslow road.

Stone

The stone seating and walling areas will be a mixture of trimmed boulder cut block and drystone with a minimal use of cement support. Local quarries and wallers/stonemasons to be used.

Planting material

Species have been chosen for suitability for local fauna, tolerance of a wide range of conditions in our changing climate, ability to absorb pollution and noise, low maintenance requirements and durability. All are sustainably grown by local suppliers

Community

The lawn area where the christmas tree is located and the circular seating area offer both spaces for art exhibits and for local groups to gather. The seating circle will accommodate up to about 15 people. Water can be housed in the adjoining wall facing the lawn, electricity supply via an in Ground Box Unit (IGU) towards the edge of the Christmas tree circle. The water feature will be able to be turned off when required.

Accessibility

Paths are minimum 1m wide for wheelchair access. Primary areas are wider, particularly the primary entry from the library concourse (ie where the current entry point is) which is between 3 and 4m wide. Entry can also be gained from higher up the library concourse and from the Wilmslow road pavement. Surfaces are flat and even – Yorkstone flags form a significant portion of the central area with bound gravel adding grip for the areas with a slight slope and all cobbles are to be flat surfaced, and pointed near level. Crossfalls will be minimal as above, with no camber. Slim strips of walk-on planting in a compressed gravel and soil base allow for extra drainage and recognisable changes in texture for sight impaired visitors, whilst small and level enough not to restrict disability access.

Phase 2 -Mosaics and boards

If and when funds become available mosaics and interest boards representing the themes of the garden and its relationship with the community will be added to garden

Mosaics to be laid in the Christmas tree circle within the arcs defined by the paving laid in Phase 1. All designs to be created by selected members of the community in workshops run by the selected craftsperson with the assistance of the overall Contemplation Garden designer (Peter Clare). Colour scheme to be determined, all designs to be approved and final layouts to be refined for unity with each other and the garden as a whole by the Contemplation Garden designer (Peter Clare).

Mosaic themes: Ripples (see main section on theme)

Materials: tiles, mortar and any additional substrate to be weatherproof and frost-proof and slip resistant to minimum R-10/PTV-25.

proposed mosaicist: Tracey Cartledge – Manchester based, (currently restoring Town Hall mosaics as part of the ongoing Manchester Town Hall restoration)

Interest boards tbc