

Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Rainbow Path – Goodland Gardens

Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Derek Perry

Author Contact Details: Craig Stone

Date of Decision: 02/06/2021

Details of decision:

Install a permanent rainbow path of 62m along the footpath in Goodland Gardens (please see attached artist impression of location)

The rainbow's path starts at the entrance of Goodland Gardens from Bridge St next, to the bridge, it then carries for 62 metres parallel to the river tone and curves off into the hard surface area of Goodland Gardens.

The path will be installed by approved contractors WJ, who have experience of implementing rainbow crossings around the country. They are also the UK's leading highway road marking specialists.

It is expected, due to the specification of the paint and the volume of footfall that, this footpath will mean that maintenance will not be required for a minimum of 15 years creating a permanent feature in the park.

The rainbow path will also include the "Progress" colours which will add a chevron along the hoist that features black, brown, light blue, pink, and white stripes to bring those communities (marginalized people) to the forefront; "the arrow points to the right to show forward movement, while being along the left edge shows that progress is being made.

Reasons for proposed decision:

Statement from Jenny Keogh and Liz Hutchin.

The Project

Go Create would like to create at least one **Pride Rainbow Pathway** in Taunton. The rainbow footpath will signal to both visitors and the community that Taunton is making considerable steps towards embracing equality, diversity and inclusion and visibly trying to overcome any inequalities. We would like to take these practical steps - by creating these bright and colourful 'installations' – towards making Taunton an accepting, inclusive place to be and that everyone is welcome regardless of how they might identify within the community. We believe that there are no other Rainbow Footpaths in the UK. The examples we found are in Australia and Iceland. This could put Taunton on the 'inclusivity' map

The rainbow footpath we propose, would be located in a prominent but safe location which would enable visitors and local people alike to take advantage of the pathway as a photo opportunity and also to walk along the pathways as they guide them towards various shops and businesses. After much consultation with SW&T, **Goodland Gardens** was arrived at probably the best location.

Everyone will benefit

from this burst of colour and fun, but the clear signal that Taunton is an open, friendly and inclusive place for everyone is absolutely vital as we emerge from the pandemic...young and old alike will delight in taking photographs on the pathways, which is why we have not planned to paint the road crossings as this would not be responsible in terms of safety and distraction to motorists and pedestrians.

Although great strides have been made by authorities, organisations, schools and colleges to promote acceptance and understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion, there are still young people who fear, or feel uncomfortable being who they are, in public, in Taunton. We need to demonstrate that we are making efforts to overcome these inequalities.

Alternative funding options sourced:

The total amount of funding will come from Taunton's Emergency Town Centre Recovery Fund

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	Cllr Simon Coles Cllr Dr. Richard Lees.	02/06/2021
The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.		
Finance implications	None	02/06/2021
Legal implications	None	
Links to corporate aims	Aligned to our Cultural Strategy	02/06/2021
Climate and Sustainability implications	None	02/06/2021
Community Safety Implications	Captured as part of the Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment	02/06/2021
Equalities Impact	Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached.	02/06/2021
Safeguarding Implications		
Risk management	Full Risk and Method Statement from WJ Contractors.	02/06/2021
Partnership implications	No/None	02/06/2021

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:



Name: Cllr Derek Perry

Date: 04/06/2021

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication and the period for any call-in has expired.

Note: A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk