

Woodberry Down Art Commission

The story so far.

WDCO was given discreet sight some months ago, of a draft document to go out to possible suppliers to procure the services of a supervising body for the Woodberry Down Art Commission. Obviously, we are excited by the prospect of an important artwork coming to Woodberry Down, and we have expressed our support for such a project.

Having looked at this project more closely over a period of months we are concerned that the involvement of residents in the original brief comes only after the external consultant has been appointed.

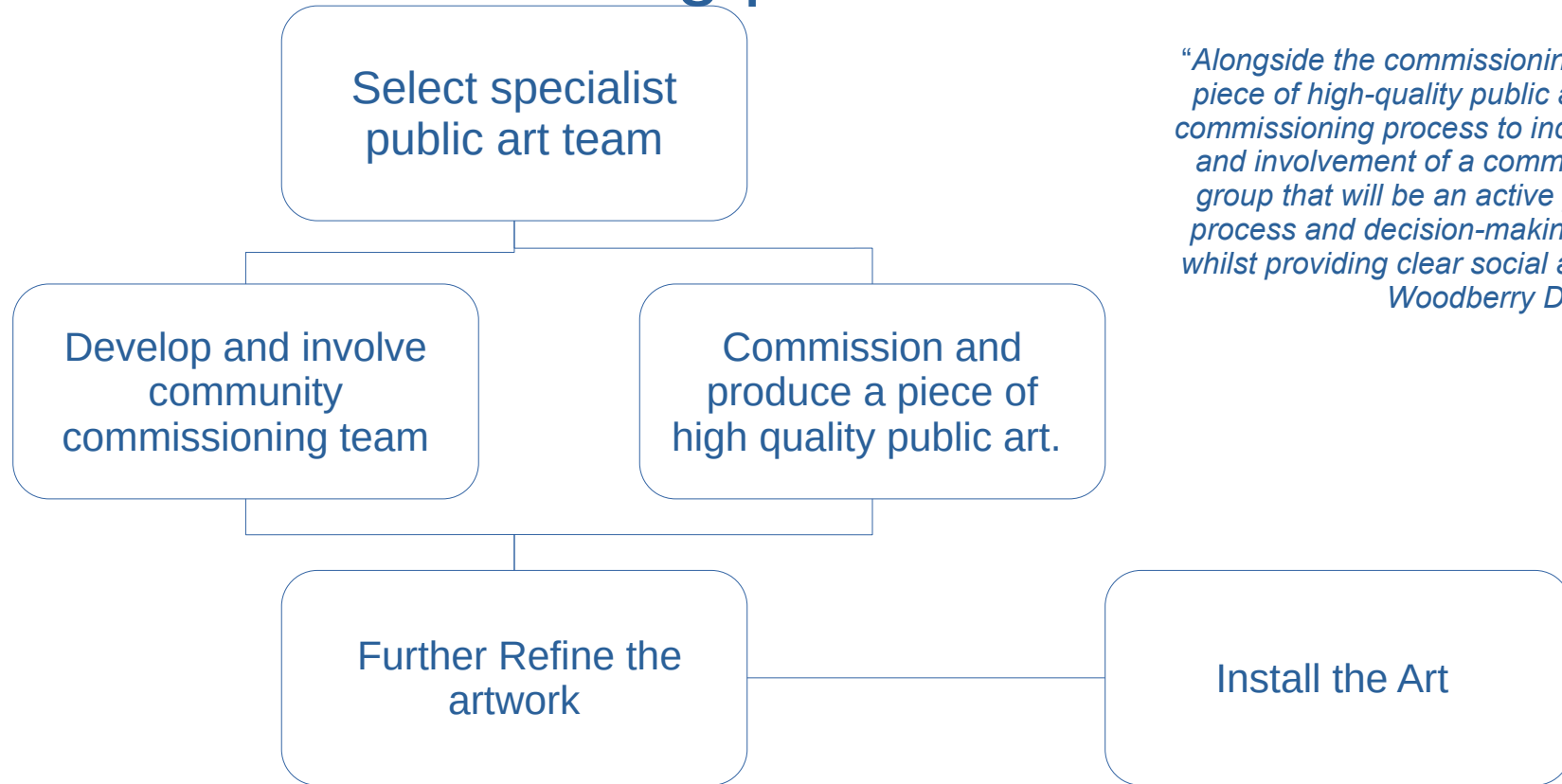
In discussions with Mat Jenner, who wrote the draft document, we have been offered the compromise set out in the second of our flowcharts here, that WDCO sits in on the procurement process of the guiding consultant.

In the third of the flowcharts, a preliminary step is introduced to have resident involvement prior to beginning the selection of the external consultant.

What we are asking for today is that the board grant the chair and Gita Sootarsing and other members of the executive and the board and residents, authority to continue the discussions with Mat and reach what we consider to be an appropriate conclusion.

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Commissioning process in the draft brief



“Alongside the commissioning and production of a piece of high-quality public art, we would like the commissioning process to include the development and involvement of a community commissioning group that will be an active partner in the artistic process and decision-making of the commission, whilst providing clear social and cultural legacy for Woodberry Down.”

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Commissioning process as discussed with Mat



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A possible resident-oriented Commissioning process

Resident Involvement in reviewing where we are now

Select specialist public art team

Develop and involve community commissioning team

Commission and produce a piece of high quality public art.

Further Refine the artwork

Install the Art

*“ a community commissioning group that will be an active **the driving partner** in the artistic process and decision-making of the commission, whilst providing clear social and cultural legacy for Woodberry Down.”*

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Feedback to the board and the residents of Woodberry Down.

This WDCO board agenda item is not about whether or not there should be artwork or what form the artwork should take. It is about the process to be followed to define that artwork.

It is often the case with WDCO working groups, in conjunction with the partners, that the working groups meet infrequently, irregularly, and the meetings take place without any form of minutes being produced. This is particularly true of the design committee where the results of their discussions will only be seen by most of us in the massive documentation submitted in support of the planning application.

It is also true of other initiatives, for almost every working group . Our representatives have met and have raised points on behalf of residents, but meetings are often few and far between, and while we get some feedback from individuals involved, and in Roda's monthly notes setting out what's happened in other groups we are not always informed about progress.

This project must not follow this flawed process. At the very least, there must be quarterly detailed reports to the WDCO Board setting out what decisions are to be taken, how they are to be taken, and what they are once they have been taken.