

### **BRIDGNORTH ARTS TRAIL – SUPPORTING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY COUNCILLOR BUCKLEY**

The Bridgnorth Art Trail Working Group consider that the 18 months of lost activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns has prevented residents and tourists from accessing the trail as much as they otherwise might have done, which has reduced the reach for artists and sponsors involved.

As with many other delayed and postponed activities, the working group would like to extend the lifetime of the project to take into account this lost period. The Art Trail was originally scheduled to complete in Autumn 2022 and we would like to request permission that this be extended to Autumn 2023 instead.

In preparation for this request, the working group sent an informal query to the artists and sponsors involved in the trail to ask their views. I attach the spreadsheet which summarises their responses: 10/13 sponsors have responded, and 7/13 artists, all endorsing the suggestion.

5/13 of the statues are on Shropshire Council (highways) land so further permission will be required from them. 1/13 of the statues will require an extension to permission from Historic England. The remaining statues are on BTC or private land.

The Bridgnorth Art Trail working group has allocated sufficient funds for an additional year's maintenance and promotions, plus a further contingency in the budget. There are no financial considerations to the Council but it could help boost tourism to our town in the post-covid period.

Signed: Julia Buckley

Name: Julia Buckley

**Bridgnorth Art Trail – Feedback on proposal to extend period of Trail beyond 2022**

<b>SPONSORS Name:</b>	<b>In favour?</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bridgnorth Aluminium	YES	Thank you for getting in touch regarding the proposed extension of the Art Trail. It's great to hear that the trail has received positive feedback. I am supportive of extending the time period of the trail, given the impact of COVID-19 on being able to promote the trail widely.
GBHS (Sally Themans and Sarah Stevens)	YES	Sarah and I are more than happy to extend as long - this sounds a very sensible proposal. We do both seek reassurance that the money remains in the funds for removal at the end? Good luck with the marketing and plans during half term and let me know if you want anything on Love Bridgnorth.
Matt Snelson & Ed Grainger (MCMT / G&W)	YES	Julia, of course we would agree with a time extension to the trail. Matthew
Perry & Phillips	YES	We would fully support for the committee to extend the trail as we felt it was very positive for locals and tourist of the town.
Robert Davies (Freemen)	YES	a quick reply would be YES lets extend it as long as we can for the benefit of the town.
Lewis Maddox (SVR)	YES	Sounds good for SVR ☺
Lydia Barber (Filtermist)	YES	We would be happy for the Art Trail to be extended into 2023/24.
Karen Sawbridge (Alphatravel and Bridgnorth RUFC)	YES	I am completely in favour of extending the Art Trail, which I think has been very well received by both residents of Bridgnorth and visitors to our town. I would extend it as long as possible, because from a sponsors point of view, the greater the incidence of viewings of the trains, the better it is for our respective brands.
John Hart (Bridgnorth Civic Society)	YES	Great idea, yes please.

ARTISTS Name:		
Tania Holland	YES	<p>I completely understand that there has been lost time in the ability of the art trail to attract visitors and for them to enjoy it. Due to changes in my own circumstances I am currently quite flexible so am happy to extend my involvement.</p> <p>I think 2024 is a bit of a stretch and imagine that the fall out from the pandemic will create a great deal of shifts in peoples circumstances as well as cultural and societal changes in the longer term so would suggest that some form of periodic/annual review for participants to opt out would be helpful if the trail is planned to be extended by more than a year</p>
Kathy O'Connor	YES	<p>Hi Julia, I don't really mind if the art trail is extended or not, whatever the town and sponsors want is my opinion. Though it makes sense to extend it due to the last 18 months limitations...</p>
Amy Higgins	YES	<p>I think its a great idea. Would be sad to not see them around town.</p>
Diane Ferguson (Bridgnorth Artists Society)	YES	<p>I am more than happy for the statues to stay if they are holding up to the elements. I'm sure there are many people that haven't had the opportunity to follow the trail given the pandemic. Many thanks for all your efforts with this.</p>
Elizabeth Harriman (Bridgnorth Artists Society)	YES	<p>I'm quite happy to see the statues remain in place. I think they are a lovely feature of the town and always look out for them when I pass one of them. They still look quite presentable and as you say are popular with visitors.</p>
Louise Rhodes (Bridgnorth Endowed School)	YES	<p>I think that sounds a great idea to extend the time of the trail. I feel that the trains are now part of our town and will be sad to see them eventually taken down. Therefore, the longer they are there the better. The trains have remained undamaged throughout the whole time they have been in situ, which I feel shows how much they have been liked and respected by all residents and visitors to the town. I'm sure this summer and for the next few summers, while the trains are still here many more tourists will enjoy doing the trail again.</p>

08.10.21: Total responses: 10 / 13 sponsors; 7/13 artists.

Julia Buckley. 18.10.21