

Sevenoaks District Council Public Realm Commission

Introduction

The Council recognises that the public realm forms an integral part of the public face of the Sevenoaks district. Great places are those places where celebrations are held, social and economic changes occur, friends run into each other and communities mix.

It feels strongly that the public realm should be inclusive, accessible, sustainable and environmentally conscious; and that the process of its creation should be open and transparent.

The Council is seeking volunteers to support the Public Realm Commissioner and be part of the Public Realm Commission.

Public Realm commission

The Council has recently appointed a Public Realm Commissioner, who will oversee the delivery of a public realm programme for the district. The Public Realm Commission will sit within the People and Places portfolio.

The commission is not decision-making body but an invitational and voluntary body with the ability to advise the Member appointed by Cabinet as Commissioner for the Public Realm. The commission's role is to:

- Understand current public spaces across the district and what purpose or uses they serve.
- Ensure public art celebrates the particular story of a place and engages with the community in its making.
- Review the effectiveness of public realm in and around completed developments to ensure that it maximises benefits to the community and advances the health, wellbeing, economic and environmental aspirations of the Council.
- Facilitate funding and other charitable contributions to enable the delivery of an annual public realm programme.
- Submit an annual report describing the activities of the previous year.

Volunteer role:

This is an advisory role and the core functions of the voluntary member role is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and direction for the Council's public realm ambitions, helping to deliver the aims identified. Members will assist the Commissioner in the work towards the creation and retention of good quality public space in the district.

Term of office:

12 months, reviewed annually.

The Commission exists until May 2023.

Time commitment:

3-4 meetings (daytime) per year and other opportunities to contribute.

Remuneration:

Volunteer members of the Public Realm Commission serve without remuneration, although mileage expenses can be claimed.

Key characteristics:

We are seeking volunteers for the Public Realm Commission with the relevant representation with the following:

- Experience or a keen interest in various aspects of the existing public realm and future spaces created by completed developments, including public art, performance space, green spaces, access, enjoyment, mixed uses and community support.
- Experience or abilities to enable fund raising or securing charitable contributions to support and deliver specific projects.
- Applicants based in the South East.

How to apply

If you would like an informal discussion regarding the Public Art Commission, please contact Alan Whiting, Community Planning and Place Manager 01732 227446.

Interviews will be held in June 2020.

May 2020