

Sparks Will Fly at Wild Woods Day

Artist Brief

Deadline 5pm, Monday 27 February

Rochford District Council would like to commission an artist to design and produce an artwork to go inside Rochford's 'glass bead' as part of the county-wide *Sparks Will Fly* project.

Rochford's 'glass bead' will be presented at the annual Wild Woods Day event in Hockley on 2 June and feature in the finale of *Sparks Will Fly* in front of an audience of 15,000 people at Hylands Park.

Artist Brief

The commissioned artist will:

- Engage with a range of residents in the research and design process, enabling local people to feed in to the overall design.
- Interpret a design that will draw inspiration from the unique character of Rochford District and what local people treasure about the District.

The artwork will:

- Be durable. It will withstand movement/transport and be able to go on long-term display – possibly outdoors – after *Sparks Will Fly*.
- Be accessible and engaging to a range of audiences.
- Be created using sustainable materials where possible.
- Have a strong visual impact.
- Weigh no more than 7kg (The bead weighs approx 2.5kg, and combined the artwork and bead must not exceed 10kg).
- Be completed by Monday 14 May 2012.

About Sparks Will Fly

The Glass Bead Game will be played at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, on 6 July 2012, coinciding with the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Essex.

Two great Champions, Boreas Zephyr and Marina Mightier are coming to Essex to compete for the title of 2012 Champion of The Game. In two marathon journeys around the whole county visiting towns and events – including Wild Woods Day on Saturday 2 June – each Champion must collect enough giant beads to enable them to play – and win – The Game.

Sparks will Fly in Essex is a cultural festival for everyone to celebrate the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games this summer.

At Rochford's Wild Woods Day event, there will be a welcoming ceremony for Boreas Zephyr and a presentation of Rochford's glass bead.

About Wild Woods Day

Rochford District Council's Wild Woods Day is set in Hockley's ancient woodlands.

Now in its ninth year Wild Woods Day is an established highlight in the Essex calendar and a flagship event for National Family Week. Each year thousands enjoy exciting arts and sports activities and fun family entertainment.

Arts, Sports and Leisure activities at Wild Woods Day link in with and make use of the ancient woodland surroundings; and there is a focus on green themes including recycling, promoting sustainability and preserving the natural environment. Rochford District Council has the best recycling rate in England.

More information can be found at www.rochford.gov.uk/wildwoodsdays

About Rochford District

Rochford District covers an area that is mainly rural in character with miles of unspoilt coastline, attractive countryside and places of historical interest.

Historical sites include the award-winning Rayleigh Windmill museum, the 18th century Dutch Cottage, the site of a Norman Castle at Rayleigh Mount and the ancient woodlands in Hockley. Listed buildings include the Old House in Rochford and Rochford Hall, one time home of the Boleyn family.

Look further afield to the outlying towns and villages, several of which are ancient settlements mentioned in the Domesday Book. The village of Paglesham is well known for its smuggling connections and Ashingdon was the site of a significant battle in 1016 between the Danes, led by King Canute, and the Saxons.

More information about Rochford District can be found at www.rochford.gov.uk

About the Glass Bead – Technical Specification and Logistics

The 'Glass Bead' is actually a large Perspex round container with a lid – imagine a large sweet jar or goldfish bowl with a lid!

The Bead is 60cm in diameter and the opening is 25cm. The commissioned artist must take in to account the size of the opening in the design and construction of the artwork.

There will not be any display structure inside the Bead, but the lid can act as a base or stand for the artwork.

The bead will be weatherproof and watertight

Fixings to the inside surface of the Bead could be double sided tape, Velcro, adhesives, screws or silicone.

Photo of Glass Bead

NB This is an early mock up of the Bead. The final bead will be transparent.



Budget

£1,500 (to cover all costs including artist fee, materials, transport, travel and community engagement)

Timescale and key dates

Monday 27 February 2012 – Deadline for applications

Thursday 8 March 2012 – Interviews; Artist Commissioned

Monday 14 May – Artwork completed and bead delivered to Rochford District Council

Saturday 2 June 2012 – Sparks Will Fly at Wild Woods Day

NB The 'empty' Glass Bead is currently being manufactured and will be ready by 5 March.

How to apply

CV and covering letter addressing:

- Approach to the commission and how you will engage a wide range of local people in the development of your design.
- Initial design ideas.
- Materials budget breakdown.

- Project timeline.
- Previous project experience.
- Up to 5 images of previous work.
- *You may be required to have an enhanced CRB.*

Post to: Roxie Curry (Arts Development Officer)
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South Street
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or email [**roxie.curry@rochford.gov.uk**](mailto:roxie.curry@rochford.gov.uk)