

OFFICER REPORT

Application Number: P2026/0364

Site Address: Green Park Port Talbot SA12 6NP

Proposal: Change of use of public amenity land to site a sculpture

Applicant: Env.Design and Heritage Officer Delyth Lewis

Agent: Mr Robert Rodger

Ward: Aberavon

Application Type: Full Plans

Valid Date: 25th June 2026

Statutory Expiry Date: 19th August 2026

Ext. of Time / PPA date:

Publicity Expiry Date: 21st July 2026

RECOMMENDATION - Approved

SITE AND CONTEXT

The application site is the public park known as Green Park, Port Talbot. The site is formerly the area of several derelict industrial buildings which were demolished to accommodate the Green Park redevelopment. The site features a footpath, seating areas and open, landscaped spaces. To the North is Green Park Street, which is an Unclassified Road and to the South is the River Afan. Residential properties are located beyond this highway.

DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The application seeks the change of use of public amenity land to site an interpretive sculpture. The sculpture will interpret the lifecycle of the Salmon.

The structure is sited in close proximity to an existing seating area which overlooks the Wier on the River Afan. The ring-shaped sculpture measures a width of 2.45m, a depth of 0.2m and a maximum height of 2.45m from ground level. The submitted base detail drawings show a kick plate between the stiffeners. The stiffeners are to be bolted to the concrete base to provide structural support to the sculpture. The sculpture will be constructed in stainless steel. The submitted elevation drawing has been annotated to indicate that the engraved imagery on both sides of the ring is identical – with the exception of very minor adjustments to accommodate the Welsh version of the interpretation text.

NEGOTIATIONS

No negotiations undertaken.

PLANNING HISTORY

The application site has the following relevant planning history:

- P2020/0838: Siting of an interpretive sculpture within a Public Park (Green Park). The sculpture will interpret the lifestyle of the Salmon. [Decision Date: 18.11.2020]

CONSULTATIONS

Biodiversity Unit – No Comments

Structures Section – No Comments

REPRESENTATIONS

A site notice was displayed on 30.06.2026.

In response, to date, no representations have been received.

REPORT

National Planning Policy:

[Future Wales: The National Plan 2040](#) is the national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. The development plan sets out a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate

resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The following policies are of particular relevance to the assessment of this application:

Policy 2 – Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking

[Planning Policy Wales \(Edition 12, February 2024\)](#)

The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty. A well-functioning planning system is fundamental for sustainable development and achieving sustainable places

PPW promotes action at all levels of the planning process which is conducive to maximising its contribution to the well-being of Wales and its communities. It encourages a wider, sustainable and problem solving outlook which focuses on integrating and addressing multiple issues rather than on an approach which is fragmented, un-coordinated and deals with issues in isolation. It provides an opportunity to remove any actual or perceived problems in current approaches and stimulate and support innovative and creative ideas as well as high standards of evidence and assessment to underpin the preparation of development plans and strategies and individual proposals. Monitoring and learning from development outcomes so as to drive sustainable improvements in planning practice is also important.

PPW12 is supported by a series of more detailed [Technical Advice Notes](#) (TANs), of which the following are of relevance:

- Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2016)

Paragraph 5.15 of TAN 12 deals specifically with public art:

5.15.1 Public art plays an important part in creating or enhancing individuality and distinctiveness, and in raising the profile of our towns, villages, cities and urban and rural landscape. The integration of the skills or work of a professional artist can add value and can also be employed at key locations to enhance legibility and public realm. There is considerable scope for integrating public art into the townscape, ranging from the dramatic to the subtle, from traditional landmark sculpture, commemorative works and smaller incidental interventions, to integrated works using contemporary and interactive media such as sound or lighting. The innovative design of street furniture or other functional objects can also be considered and increasingly, imaginative design of floorscape, railings, lighting and signage is being used to give everyday objects a unique appearance and identity. Through a considered choice of location and use of tactile materials, public art can and should be made accessible to all, whilst not itself compromising general accessibility.

Local Planning Policies

The Local Development Plan for the area comprises the [Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan](#) which was adopted in January 2016, and within which the following policies are of relevance:

- **Policy SC1** Settlement Limits
- **Policy BE1** Design
- **Policy TR2** Design and Access of New Development
- **Policy EN6** Important Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites
- **Policy EN7** Important Natural Features

Supplementary Planning Guidance:

The following SPG is of relevance to this application:

- [Parking Standards](#) (October 2016)
- [Design](#) (July 2017)

Issues

Having regard to the above, the main issues to consider in this application relate to the impact on the visual amenity of the area, the amenities of neighbouring residents and highway safety.

Impact on Visual Amenity

The proposed development complies with TAN 12 by introducing public art through the form of a sculpture to a public park area that is frequently visited by members of the public, thereby adding to the visitor experience and interpretation of the area in which it is located. The design of the sculpture together with its siting is considered to be appropriate for its context and will not detract from the character or appearance of the public park setting.

In view of the above, it is considered that the proposal accords with TAN 12 and Policy BE1 of the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan.

Impact on Residential Amenity

By virtue of the fact that the proposal comprises the change of use of public amenity land to site a 2.45m high sculpture, it does not lend itself to any overlooking, overbearing or overshadowing impacts.

The noise and disturbance expected to be generated by visitors is unlikely to be at level that would be above and beyond the existing arrangement.

In light of the aforementioned information, the impact on residential amenity is considered to be acceptable.

Parking and Access Requirements and Impact on Highway Safety

The siting of the development does not impact upon any existing parking or access and accordingly does not raise any highway safety concerns.

Biodiversity

As identified above, Policies EN6 and EN7 of the Local Development Plan will be of relevance insofar as there is a need to ensure any impacts on biodiversity/ natural features are appropriately assessed and, where applicable, mitigated.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12 sets out that;

The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design. With careful planning and design, informed by an appropriate level of assessment, green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services into new development and places, help to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contribute to health and well-being outcomes.

A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach (Paragraph 6.4.15 of PPW 12) has been applied.

A green infrastructure statement has been submitted in support of this application. Works to reclaim the derelict and contaminated site at Green Park began in 2015 and were largely completed by 2017. The site underwent capping of the contamination to facilitate landscaping and planting. The submitted information provided within the green infrastructure statement states that the installation of this sculpture represents the completion of this land reclamation project as a public park and natural resource, the entirety of which provide a significant gain in terms of green infrastructure. Biodiversity Unit advised that they have no comments to make in response to the application. For these reasons, it is considered that the biodiversity enhancement accords with the requirements of Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12).

CONCLUSION

The decision to recommend planning permission has been taken in accordance with Section 38 of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires that, in determining a planning application the determination must be in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan comprises Future Wales - the National Plan 2040 and the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (2011–2026) adopted January 2016.

It is considered that the proposal represents an appropriate form of development that would have no unacceptable impact on the amenities of neighbouring residents, visual amenity of the area or highway and pedestrian safety. Accordingly, the proposed development is in accordance with Policies BE1 (Design) and TR2 (Design and Access of New Development) of the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan.

It is further considered that the decision complies with Future Wales - the National Plan 2040 and the Council's well-being objectives and the sustainable development principle in accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

Approved

Subject to the following conditions/reasons, which have been imposed for the reasons stated:-

Time Limit Conditions

- 1 The development shall begin no later than five years from the date of this decision.

Reason:

To comply with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

List of Approved Plans

- 2 The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents:

Location Plan REV A - Received: 29/06/26

Block Plan REV A - Received: 29/06/26

Elevations REV A - Received: 29/06/26

Sculpture & Base Details REV A - Received: 29/06/26

Reason:

In the interests of clarity.

Case Officer	Thomas Lewis
Telephone No.	01639 686226
Date of Recommendation	12th August 2026