

The Lincoln Wish Tree.

A proposal by Lincoln Art Ninjas for an art installation on West Common, Lincoln.

Ownership:

This proposal is submitted by Mia Monroe who is Chief Executive of Lincoln Art Ninjas, and takes sole responsibility for Lincoln Art Ninjas formal projects. Lincoln Art Ninjas is part of Activitea CIC which trades as Art Ninja HQ, working out of Queens Park Community Hub as a community open art studio. Mia Monroe started the project after research undertaken while studying a Masters of Culture and Heritage Management with the University of Lincoln.

About Lincoln Art Ninjas:

Lincoln Art Ninjas was founded in 2017 by Mia Monroe. It is a group set up to facilitate Community through Creativity. It evolved through the years with free creative workshops for the community with a mental health objective, alongside motivating people to get more active by spreading kindness art for people to pick up and take home, this takes the form of upcycled materials painted and decorated with positive messages, it can also be painted rocks, poetry etc.

ActiviTea CIC was established in 2018, is a business but is not for profit and operates on the basis of donation and some grants and freelance facilitation work by Mia Monroe.

Lincoln Art Ninjas operates as an online FaceBook group with volunteers who support the ideas and are on hand should they be required. There are 4 volunteers who form an informal 'committee of conscience', names are available on request.

Project Vision:

To provide an attractive but discrete natural area on a unobtrusive part of West Common, for quiet contemplation, with enhanced wildlife habitats and associated biodiversity.

A Wish Tree is a culturally historic site based around a Hawthorn tree where people go to think of their loved ones and to leave a 'Wish' or token to 'pray' (for good health for example). The area will provide accessible pathways to the Wish Tree and its surrounding area to enjoy the artwork and mementoes left in the name of loved ones. It will also motivate people to get outdoors and enjoy the Common while providing an example of how the community supports one another through the feeling of community solidarity the area provides.

Location :

The area to be restricted to the corner copse on the Cricket Green area., as marked.

The solid line being the main site,

Dotted line being the Bird Box walk.



The Proposal:

To work with volunteers to develop the area indicated, in such a way as to make a place where people will want to go for quiet reflection.

This will mean developing pathways through existing clear areas, and the provision of existing cut tree stump seats. The site floods every year as far as the area indicated by the dashes, this is the area which we propose to develop a bird box and bat box walk for people to spot, also if allowed a series of wooden log slices with various bugs and wildlife on to spot and also educate. The local school St Faiths regularly use the area.

Any materials brought and used on site will be suitable for the setting. The natural setting and environmental credentials of the site are important to the Art Ninja group, and so only those items that will not cause a hazard, and pose no risk to natural wildlife and other site users will be brought to site.

Litter, deteriorating and decomposing material will be removed regularly, and the site kept tidy and safe for all users, including wildlife. Large items (over A4 size) will be removed also to ensure the area provides a place for all to enjoy. Anything deemed to be offensive will also be removed.

Additionally, it will involve developing and maintaining wildlife habitats consistent with developing the biodiversity in and around the immediate area, for which expert advice will be sought. Currently there is a mouse family who were born on the site, squirrels seen, hedgehogs and many bird species. Careful provision will be made to ensure they continue to have a safe habitat.

A notice will be displayed at all times at the entrance to the site explaining what the project is about, who is delivering it, and who to contact in case of there being a need to report something.

Legal requirements:

It is recognised that the commons are protected by the Lincoln City Council Act and associated bylaws, and this project will agree to abide by the law at all times. Worthy of special note the Art Ninjas will not cut down trees, cut branches, build additional structures (to the two teepess and a shelter) or displace soil without separate prior approval. It is also confirmed that there would be no further expansion of the project in terms of size or scale, without prior authorisation. All structures which are on site will be kept in good order and continually assessed for safety.

Further, the Art Ninjas recognise that the use of volunteers and the provision of facilities used by the public attracts legislative demands on the organisers in terms of ensuring their rights, privacy, and health and safety.

The lead for this project, currently Mia Monroe, confirms that they will ensure safe practices for all volunteers in all regards, and that a suitably competent person will make and record regular site inspections to ensure public safety. The site safety records will be available on request.

Term:

This project is intended to be open ended, and will end when the lead person formally declares its closure, or the City Council requires its closure. At such a time, at the discretion of the City Council, Lincoln Art Ninjas will be responsible for removal of all items brought to the site, and returning the site to its original condition.

It should be noted that the lead person may change at times, and if this happens the City Council will be notified, and the new lead person will assume all responsibilities set out above.