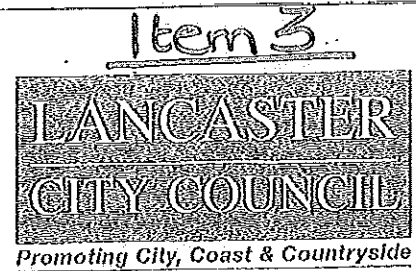




Contact: Mark Davies
Telephone: (01524) 582401
Email: mdavies@lancaster.gov.uk
Web Site: www.lancaster.gov.uk



Mark Dion
CO- Visual Arts
Columbia University
USA

Environmental Services

Mark Davies
Chief Officer (Environment)
White Lund Depot
White Lund Road
MORECAMBE LA3 3DT

29th Sept 2014

Dear Mr Dion

You may be aware that there has recently been much local debate about the future of your art installation 'The Tasting Garden' which is located in the Storey Gardens, Lancaster, UK.

As things stand the work is sadly no longer recognisable as a work of art. This is due to a number of reasons including vandalism and lack of ongoing funding.

The debate that local politicians are currently having is whether to restore the artwork or whether to remove it all together.

In order to help with this debate they have asked me to contact you as the artist, for your views on the following-

- a) The feasibility of moving the artwork to Williamson Park or another suitable venue.

Essentially if funding were identified for restoration what would your views be on moving the artwork to another venue in Lancaster? Would this be acceptable to you? Would it be practically possible? If it were what would the terms be of such a move?

- b) That in view of references to funding opportunities within submissions received in support of restoring the Tasting Gardens, officers make approaches to explore the possibilities of alternative funding.

A number of individuals and organisations have suggested that there may be funding available to restore the artwork. Were this the case would you still be happy for the artwork to be restored?

I would be grateful for your views on these questions and indeed any other comments you have on this matter. I look forward to hearing further from you.

Yours sincerely

Mark Davies
Chief Officer (Environment)
Lancaster City Council



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



From [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2014 15:15
To: Davies, Mark
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Lancaster City Council

Dear Mark,

Thanks for getting in touch. I have followed the discuss around the Tasting Garden. At times it has been quite disheartening.

On the other hand the support for the project in Lancaster, the UK and from around the world has been encouraging. Not only have some of the most knowledgable and respected art professionals written in support of the work, but many of the signers of the petition were from Lancaster and have had direct experience of the art work.

To be clear, the work was made for the site, and the condition of a walled garden. It is not possible to move the work from the Storey location.

I am enthusiastically supportive of a restoration of the work and have been so since the theft. The restoration is possible given that Robert Williams has wisely saved the sculpted fruit and core models. I believe it would reasonably possible to raise the funds for such a restoration given the quality of the written support the work has received. The garden is Internationally renown and has much energy around its restoration.

I would entirely endorse the restoration of the garden at its current location.

My best regards from Austin,
Mark

Mark Dion
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Nov 4, 2014, at 7:38 AM, "Davies, Mark" <MDavies@lancaster.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mark

Please see attached which I'd originally sent care of the University at which you lecture.

Hopefully this finds you safely

I look forward to your response

Regards

Mark Davies
Chief Officer (Environment)
Lancaster City Council