



**Wigan**♥  
**Council**

On behalf of Friends of Haigh Hall Heritage and Open Access for All, we are submitting the following Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

This request concerns the garden and amphitheatre project at Haigh Woodland Park, which involved sculptural installations, a planting scheme, and received funding from Arts Council England.

Please provide the following information:

**1. Project Design and Delivery**

All correspondence and communications (emails, letters, meeting notes) between Wigan Council officers and third parties (e.g. artists, designers, contractors) regarding:

- A The original design of the project
- B The planting scheme
- C Changes or amendments made to the original design
- D Planning and organisation of the official launch/opening event

1a&b. Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allows a public authority to refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is manifestly unreasonable. Given the number of years this project has been planned for and the detail involved, it would be time prohibitive to provide all correspondence and communications (emails, letters, meeting notes) between officers and third parties as this would involve searching through 10 employees email accounts, some going back nearly three years and would take over 18 hours.

Dealing with this request would create an unreasonable diversion of resources, therefore the exception under Regulation 12(4)(b) is engaged.

1c. The original planning permission and amended planning permission applications, with associated documents are publicly available to view on the Council's website, through the planning page and the 'search planning applications' section. [Search and comment on planning applications](#)

1d. No information held.

## 2. Contracts and Decision-Making:

Formal agreements or contracts relating to the project's delivery, including any changes made to the planting or landscape design, and documentation relating to the involvement or exclusion of the original artists.

Meeting minutes or decision records where the following were discussed or approved:

• Amendments to the original artist-led design • Changes to the planting scheme • Decisions not to include or credit the original artists • Planning of the public launch

Please refer to the Planning Portal, this is where the original and amended planning applications are held. [Search and comment on planning applications](#)

The Decision Notice is publicly available online for the appointment of Horticon.

No such documents exist that outline decisions not to include or credit the original artists.

## 3. Budget and Funding

A breakdown of the budget, including:

- Allocation of the Arts Council funding
- Artist fees
- Planting and landscaping costs
- Any supplementary funding allocated by Wigan Council

- Arts Council funding of £50k has been used to cover a range of expenses linked to the project including landscaping, artist fees, planting costs etc
- Artists fees are personal data and therefore exempt
- Total costs for planting c£12k
- Total additional costs incurred by Wigan Council: £20, 042.23

## 4. Artist Recognition

Any plans or policy documents relating to the public crediting of artists involved in this project, or explanation of why such credit may not have been given.

No such plans or documents exist.

Artists involved in this project have been credited accordingly

## 5. Social Media Moderation and Public Engagement

a. A copy of Wigan Council's policy or internal guidance on:- • Deleting or hiding comments on official social media pages • Blocking users from engaging with council-run social media accounts • Responding to public comments or questions on council project posts

Please refer to [Social media guidelines](#)

b. Any internal correspondence (emails, messages, meeting records) between officers discussing the moderation, hiding, or removal of public comments on the Haigh Woodland Park Facebook page between 12 April 2025 and the date of this request, particularly relating to:- • The opening of the amphitheatre. Any references to residents raising concerns about the planting scheme or lack of artist credit

This correspondence does not exist.