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MCA1256D UPDATE

'THE BATHMAN' ARTWORK. PROPOSAL TO LET CONTRACT

Matlock Town Council's David Barker Bequest Committee 26 October 2026.

1. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Brief and Budget. This report explains the work undertaken since the DBB Committee meeting on 20 July 2026 endorsed the proposals to create a new artwork at Matlock Station representing 'The Bathman'. A detailed Brief for the project has been agreed with Castle Fine Arts (CFA) – See section 2 below. CFA has subsequently submitted a quotation to design, make and install the artwork of £78,146-00 +VAT (see Section 3 below). This quotation and the other items of work necessary would amount to a total of about £90,000. An allowance for contingencies would bring the total to £100,000 as previously agreed. On 15 October 2026 MCA's Trustees *"resolved to approve up to £80,000 from MCA Funds (an amount derived from the David Barker Bequest) to be transferred to the DBB Charity for the Bathman project"*. The intention is that the balance of costs could be met by grants and sponsorship.

1.2 It is recommended that the CFA quotation is accepted. The initial design work will include drawings, a working maquette at 1:4 scale and artists' impressions of the artwork as installed. This initial design work will be used to make applications for grants and sponsorship and also to secure any necessary consents (planning consent and a site licence for example). It is possible the project might fail at this point so, to be fair to CFA (and as agreed at the 20 July meeting) a payment of up to £10,000 would be made if the project fails to proceed. The decision to proceed with the rest of the work will also be made at this point based on an assessment of the detailed proposals and any conditions that might be attached to consents.

1.3 The contract with CFA should be let by Matlock Town Council (MTC) because it is MTC that will own the completed artwork and also to enable the VAT element to be reclaimed. MTC will need to be satisfied that it will comply with the appropriate regulations and its Standing Orders may be adequate. However there is also a new 'Statement of Recommended Practice' (SORP26) that MCA has only recently become aware of - and which MCA will also need to examine for its own activities. Therefore MCA's Trustees recommend that *"the Town Council should check that the Bathman project and its method of funding and implementation will be acceptable to the Charity Commission, current Government Advice SORP 26 and legislation on organisation, procedures and expenditure before confirming an instruction to proceed with the CFA contract beyond the initial design work".*

1.4 Resolutions of Compliance. At an MCA Trustees Meeting on 15 Oct 2026 it *was " resolved that MCA Trustees are satisfied that this Bathman Project complies with MCA's Charitable Objects and the criteria that have been adopted by MCA and MTC for the use of the David Barker Bequest).* MTC may need an equivalent formal resolution.

MTC will also need to put in place a bank account dedicated to the DBB Charity and separate from other MTC banking arrangements to receive the funds from MCA and in due course from any grants or sponsorships that may be received.

1.5 There are many detailed points that will need to be dealt with as the project develops and the main initial issues with suggested solutions (where appropriate) are explained in Section 4 below.

1.6 Recommendations.

a. **That MTC make an equivalent resolution to MCA's (1.4 above) and set up appropriate banking arrangements to receive the £80,000 from the DBB funds and potentially other funding contributions.**
b. **That the contract with CFA be let by the Town Council based on the Brief (Section 2) and the Quotation from CFA (Section 3) as explained above.**
c. **That the detailed points set out in Section 4 be agreed.**
d. **That the Town Clerk, working with Ken Parker as the Project Manager, be authorised to deal with detailed points as they arise, reporting back as appropriate.**

2. THE BRIEF

2.1 The Contractor. As explained last July, MCA has a long working relationship with Leander Architectural from Doveholes to make and install blue plaques and bronze artwork across the town (about 25 so far). Leander were therefore approached to see if they could help with the Bathman project. Leander have recently decided to stop making large scale artwork like the Bathman but recommend we use Castle Fine Arts - a firm specialising in large scale figurative artworks based near Oswestry but with other foundries in Stroud and Liverpool. CFA would subcontract the design work to an artist (Andy Edwards) they have worked with many times before – an artist with a national reputation – he was responsible for The Beatles artwork in Liverpool (photo on page 6 below).

2.2 The Brief. The text at 2.3 to 2.9 below is verbatim from an email to Chris Jones at Castle Fine Arts (CFA) dated 20 August 2026. This followed a meeting at Leander Architectural the previous day – which was also attended by the Town Clerk. It formed the Brief for CFA to prepare a proposal and quote for the project. Leander may also be involved in design and installation of an explanatory plaque as explained at 2.9 below.

2.3 The Artwork will be…

a. Cast in bronze and based on the 1857 humorous cartoon of a Bathman figure providing a 'water cure' by pouring from a can over an empty, shallow bath.
b. The figure and the bathtub will be fixed to a stainless-steel frame to allow it to be bolted into position but able to be moved to a new location at some future date should that be desirable.
c. The details will need to ensure the artwork can withstand people playing around and climbing on it (eg sitting in the empty bath can be expected)
d. While initially the artwork will be dry (and the water will be imaginary) the inside of the Bathman will be copper pipework enabling the figure to be plumbed in to a water supply at a future date.
e. The bathtub will have drainage hole(s) so that it doesn't become full of water.
f. The face of the Bathman should resemble the face of John Smedley (a pioneer of Hydrotherapy) based on historic photos.

2.4 Initial Design. CFA will commission an artist able to produce drawings, artist's impressions (and potentially also a maquette) to enable MCA + TC to secure the necessary consents and to seek funding assistance. The costs of this initial design work will be set out in writing (with the maquette an option) for MCA/TC approval.

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2.5 Approvals. MCA will use the initial design drawings (and maquette) to seek the necessary consents and to apply for grant funding. Once the consents are secured and the funds are in place it should be possible to commission the fabrication and installation of the artwork. Public Statements will be needed to explain the project before it is installed.
2.6 Costs of the Project. The costs of implementing the project will also be set out to cover detailed design, casting and installation but not including the plaque (see below) and not including the casting of a concrete slab for fixing the artwork to. Again for MCA/TC consideration and incorporation into grant applications.
2.7 The Site. The artwork will be installed on the apex of the gravel triangle on the Station Approach. This is owned by DDDC and the Town Council has already been allowed to site a series of planting boxes on the site pending a formal Licence (assuming DDDC deem a Licence necessary). A similar arrangement will be needed for the new Artwork.
The precise location of the artwork will be chosen to avoid any underground services that may run under the gravel triangle and the position of these services will need to be established. DDDC should know (or be able to establish) the location of the services.
2.8 The Concrete Slab. This will not be a CFA responsibility and will need to be commissioned by TC/MCA if the project goes ahead. CFA will provide a specification. The surface of the slab will be sufficiently below ground level to allow for the stainless-steel framework to be hidden when fixed (ie also just below ground level). This will enable the gravel surfacing (or paving) to be installed below the artwork without creating a trip hazard. The Town Council should have a list of approved contractors and tenders may be needed. The contractors will need to scan the proposed location before starting work to confirm no underground services will be affected.
2.9 A Site plaque.
A bronze plaque can be supplied by Leander and could be fixed to the artwork (eg on the side of the bathtub) or as a free-standing plaque fixed to a lectern or a stone plinth.



The design of the plaque should echo other Leander-provided MCA bronze plaques (eg to the Memorial Stone at Park Head). The wording will explain the significance of the artwork in the Matlock story and could include an image of the 1857 cartoon or other non-text material.

The proposed location for the new Bathman artwork at the approach to Matlock Station. The lady is standing where the artwork will be installed.

3. E FINE ARTS
3. 0 September 2026
Thank you for your recent request. Please see below our quote for your project.
RE: The Bathman at 7ft scale (Matlock Bath) - Quote
Artist Fees and Scale Up: £27,576.00 plus VAT
To Mould: £6,486.00 plus VAT
To Cast and Finish: £29,102.00 plus VAT

To Fabricate: £11,732.00 plus VAT
Installation: £3,250.00 plus VAT
Total Job Cost: £78,146.00 plus VAT
The above price is to carry out the following;

1. *Artist Andy Edwards to create a ¼ scale maquette; this will be scaled up in clay at our Liverpool studio and co-ordinated by Chris Butler (MD). The composition consists of a 7 ft figure with watering can and a fabricated bronze bath (no figure in bath). The figure will be crafted to reflect the image of John Smedley.*
2. *Following approval of the full-sized clay, the work will then be moulded in a silicon rubber/fibreglass mould and then cast and finished using the lost wax process at our Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant site.*
3. *The work will then be taken to the agreed site and installed.*

We have included for a traditional bronze patina, but we are able to achieve many finishes and will be happy to discuss this if you wish.
Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need any help with your project or clarification regarding this quote.
Yours sincerely
Chris Jones
Please note:
The price is valid for three months from the date of quotation.
Our prices do not include VAT, collection, delivery or installation unless otherwise stated.
The above is an estimate of the price for the work you require based on the information you provide. We will be able to give a better indication of the price upon viewing the piece to be cast.

3.2 Initial Response to the quote.

By email dated 1st October Ken Parker confirmed the process of MCA and TC consideration of the quote (meetings on 12 and 26 October respectively). He also explained that (assuming MCA and TC agree the quote) the process of securing consents and applying for grant aid will be inevitably longer than three months as specified in the quote. This email recorded Chris Jones' agreement to hold the price while this process takes its course. Ken Parker has also asked for clarification of the payment that might become due to CFA if the project fails to secure consents or does not proceed for other reasons (also explaining the cost of a maquette). Chris Jones of CFA said up to £10,000 for initial design work (including a working maquette and artists impressions of the completed project) would be appropriate.

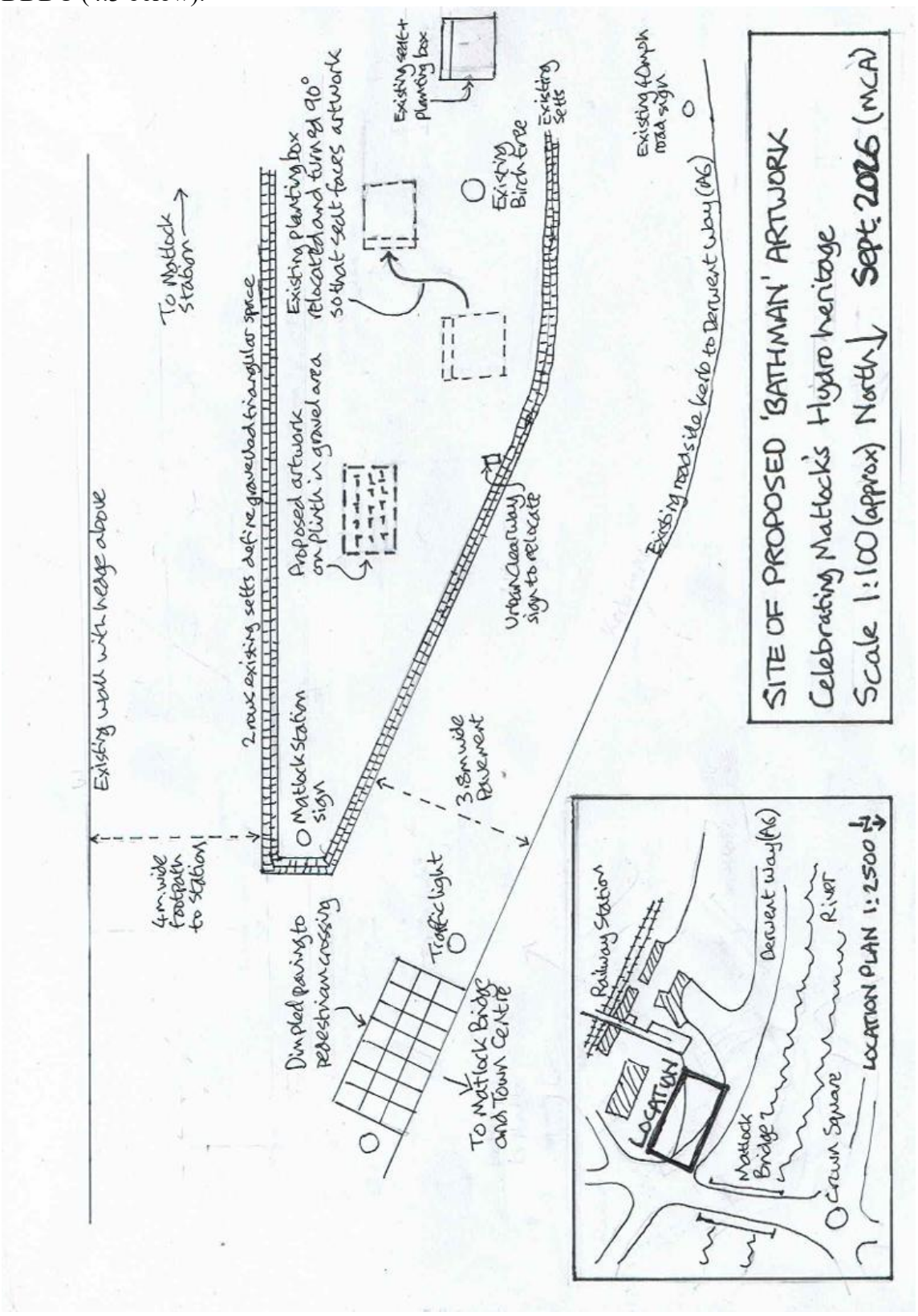
4. DETAILED POINTS AND SITE INVESTIGATIONS

4.1 Site drawing. A simple site measure has been undertaken to identify the likely location of the artwork (MCA1669 below). This is the location shown on the photo (the lady is in the location of the artwork) This plan also identifies two items of ancillary work that would be desirable.

a. The modest relocation of one of the Town Council's existing planting boxes (agreed in principle with the Town Clerk) to make a slightly larger space for the artwork with a seat facing it.
b. The relocation of prominent 'Urban Clearway' sign (which will need to be agreed with DCC).

There is also currently an array of solar panels on the site. It is not known if these are temporary but if they are not temporary they will need to be relocated to enable the Bathman

project to proceed - to be checked by the Clerk as part of the Site Licence negotiations with DDDC (4.3 below).



4.2 Underground Services. An investigation of underground services was undertaken for the Station Footbridge artwork project in 2022. The maps provided include the location of the Bathman project. This shows -

a. An electricity supply crossing the A6 in the vicinity of the pelican pedestrian crossing.
b. A water supply running under the footpath to the south of the gravel triangle.
c. A gas supply running in the vicinity of the TC's planting boxes.

There do not appear to be any services in the location proposed for 'The Bathman'. The Town Clerk is also checking this with DDDC (the site owners). It will be a requirement of the contractor constructing the slab that a scan for services is done before excavation (see 2.8 above).

4.3 A DDDC Licence for the Project. The site is owned by DDDC (not DCC as had been assumed earlier) and the Town Clerk is in discussion with DDDC to secure agreement to the project. The TC's existing planting boxes already have a Site Licence outstanding and the Bathman will need to be a variation to this Licence.

4.4 The concrete slab required will be specified by CFA which will need to be completed before the artwork can be fixed into position. MTC will need to let the contract for the work. A generous cost allocation would be £5,000.

4.5 The plaque to explain the artwork could be freestanding (eg fixed to a large rock – like the Bailey's Tump plaque). This would need to be inserted into the gravel area at the same time as the slab – an additional element to the Site Licence and the planning application. Alternatively the plaque or welded to the artwork itself. The latter would be cheaper and would ensure a much simpler relocation should that be desirable (see 2.9). This would be a separate contract with Leander and would be designed to be in a similar style to the Memorial Stone 'Together' plaque (photo below). The Together plaque cost £3,000 in 2022 so the cost could be up to £5,000.

4.6 A Maquette for the Town Council? A separate quarter size maquette could be cast for use in the applications process but this is not essential. If MTC wished to keep it (eg for outside the Imperial Rooms) CFA have quoted £10,000 for this in bronze or £6,750 as a 3D Printed version. This would be an extra cost and has not been included in the £100,000 budget allocation explained below.

4.7 The style of the artwork and the face of the Bathman. The 1857 cartoon being used as the basis for the Bathman artwork has an exaggerated shape (see photo). A more natural figure similar in style to Andy Edwards' Beatles artwork would perhaps be preferable but we should seek ideas from Andy.

It was originally suggested the face could be based on photos of John Smedley – the Victorian pioneer of Hydrotherapy (the CFA quote assumes this – see 3.1). John Smedley Ltd have been consulted on this idea and do not wish to pursue it further. The face of the Bathman could therefore be an anonymous face or we could base it on someone else – perhaps David Barker as it is his money that is funding the project (if so the people named in David's Will should be specifically consulted).

4.8 A Project Statement and Public Relations. Accompanying the planning application and grant applications there will need to be a detailed statement explaining the project idea and its ingredients. MCA's Trustees also propose that *"To avoid adverse public reaction there will also need to be an explanation of the project and that the principal source of funding is a Charitable Bequest. This should preferably be a joint statement by MTC and MCA"*

4.9 Revised Budget. In summary the breakdown of Project costs are therefore

a. CFA Quotation for design, fabrication and installation £78.146-00
b. Concrete slab. Allow £5,000
c. Bronze Plaque design fabrication and installation by Leander . Allow £5,000

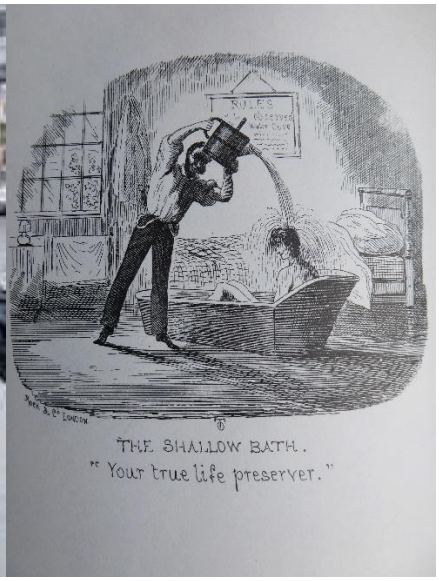
d. Contingency c £12,000 to make total revised budget £100,000 (as approved initial budget)

Ken Parker, Secretary to MCA and Bathman Project Manager. 16 October 2026
MCA1678

Photos to illustrate the Bathman project..



The Beatles by Andy Edwards in Liverpool



Bathman Cartoon from 1857





The Bathman is intended to symbolise Matlock's origins as a centre for hydrotherapy - just as the slightly similar Rebecca's Fountain from 1861 symbolises Bath's spa heritage.

The plaque from the Park Head Memorial - the same style for 'Bathman' is proposed.

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MCA1640B UPDATE

UPDATE 26.10.2026

- The bench at the County Council building will need a different location, they won't allow it where we requested due to the potential redevelopment of the buildings that is planned.

- Notice to put bench in has gone up at Hurds Hollow/Dimple junction.

- Bench outside DDDC needs their permission. I am waiting on that.

- Bench at Wellfields will be factored in with the work that out partners at Groundworks want to do, will be in the spring.

- Steep Turnpike bench is waiting on confirmation from DCC that we can relocate the grit bin (which is broken beyond repair and will have to be replaced). Location for grit bin has been sent in to DCC but no response as yet.

Questions from MCA:

1) Councillor's express interest in sponsoring a bench - Is this still the case ?
2) If we have individuals wishing to sponsor a bench will they need an agreement with MTC ?
3) Do you see individual sponsors paying MTC direct or paying MCA who will then pass over to MTC ?
4) Once installed on going responsibility such as maintenance will lie with MTC ?
5) Will MTC installation team give advice regarding safety of all 5 sites ?
6) With Wellfield Allotments being on MTC land can this part of the project proceed quicker than the ones needing licences ? (we already have an individual sponsor for Wellfield Allotment bench).

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MATLOCK ARTS

Verbal update from Cllr Lowthrop