

# PADIHAM GABLE ART PHASE 2

## TENDER BRIEF



Date: 28 September 2026

## Background

Burnley Borough Council, with support from Mid Pennine Arts, wishes to commission an artist/artists to develop and implement designs for gable-end artworks on selected buildings within Padiham town centre. The commissions will form part of the ongoing programme of place-making improvements across Padiham and seek to build upon the success of previous mural projects delivered within the town.

The aim is to introduce a sensitive, high-quality artistic intervention that responds to Padiham's heritage, character and architectural setting whilst complementing existing public artwork.

## Context

Padiham now benefits from two established mural artworks and other public realm enhancements. Artists must demonstrate an understanding of these existing interventions and show how their proposals will add variety and richness to the town's cultural offer. The project seeks to avoid an over-concentration of mural artwork within the town centre and to ensure that each intervention retains its individual significance. The commission should contribute positively to the townscape without overwhelming it.



*Existing Murals – Church St (by Chris Butcher) and Burnley Rd (by Gavin Renshaw)*

## **Project Objectives**

Building upon the success of the previous gable art interventions, the artworks should:

- Enhance the appearance of the selected gables
- Celebrate Padiham's heritage, identity and character
- Complement existing mural installations
- Respect the historic townscape and architectural context
- Create visual interest without dominating the surrounding environment
- Encourage pride in place
- Deliver a high-quality and durable public artwork
- Be welcoming and accessible to residents and visitors

## **Design Principles**

Artists are encouraged to think broadly about what a mural can be and are not restricted to traditional figurative mural approaches.

Proposals may include:

- Heritage-inspired artwork
- Contemporary interpretations of local stories
- Textile and pattern-based designs
- Ghost sign restoration or reinterpretation
- Typography and lettering
- Subtle colour/palette designs
- Designs inspired by local materials, craftsmanship or industry

Encouragement is given to concepts that work with the architectural form of the building, draw inspiration from local heritage and culture, interpret local stories, and age well and remain relevant over time.

## **Conservation and Heritage Considerations**

The successful artist/s must demonstrate a strong understanding of working within historic environments.

Design proposals should:

- Respect the architectural character of the host building.
- Avoid obscuring important architectural features.
- Use colours and compositions that sit comfortably within the surrounding streetscape.
- Avoid designs that appear overly commercial or visually aggressive.
- Consider long-distance and close-up viewing.
- Be appropriate to the scale and significance of the location.

- Demonstrate an understanding of conservation area principles and heritage-led regeneration.

Selected artist/s will be encouraged to draw upon either of two valuable local heritage resources. Padiham Archives (located within Padiham Town Hall) and/or Gawthorpe Textiles Collection both offer a wealth of rich source material.

### **Community Engagement**

The artist/s will be expected to work closely with a small project steering group, established to guide the development of the artwork and provide local insight throughout the commissions. Extensive community engagement was undertaken as part of the previous gable art project, which successfully informed the artistic approach and secured strong local support.

Given the previous engagement activity and the positive reception of the completed artworks, a lighter touch approach is proposed for this phase. Rather than repeating the same level of consultation, the focus will be on keeping the community informed and engaged through targeted communications. This is likely to include social media updates on the developing proposals, opportunities to share progress and artwork concepts, and regular liaison with key stakeholders, including Padiham Town Council and local ward councillors. The aim is to ensure the project remains locally informed, transparent, and well supported while allowing the artist/s sufficient creative freedom to develop high-quality final designs.

The project steering group will include:

- Suzanne Pickering – Development Officer, Burnley Borough Council
- Katie Nolan – Town Centre Management, Burnley Borough Council
- Nick Hunt – Creative Director, Mid Pennine Arts
- Peter Haigh – Padiham Town Council
- Adrian Clarke – Property Owner
- Andrew Parkin – Property Owner
- Michael Huckerby – The Lawrence Hotel

### Site 1 – Church St, Padiham



*A tall, rendered gable with some weathering but generally in fair condition. Gateway location. Privately owned. Green space to the front of the gable but not obstructive and land owned/managed by the Council to allow for access to undertake works. The intention is to remove the existing advertisement board and replace it with a hanging sign positioned to the front elevation.*



### Site 2 – The Lawrence Hotel, Church St, Padiham



*This smaller rendered gable, located alongside the Lawrence Hotel, presents a well-maintained and visually prominent canvas. The wall forms part of the privately owned hotel property, with access constrained by the front garden and requiring further consideration. Given its scale, condition, and traditional appearance, the gable would be particularly well suited to a ghost sign or other heritage-themed painted signage, offering an opportunity to celebrate local history in a subtle and authentic manner.*

## Submission Requirements

We are not asking for ideas or concept designs at this stage. Artists wishing to be considered should submit:

- A portfolio containing a minimum of three examples of completed mural, public art or large-scale exterior artwork commissions
- Images and brief project descriptions for each example
- Details of the artist's role and involvement in each project
- Two referees for whom similar work has been undertaken within the last five years. Should include contact details and details of the commissioned project.

Also a brief statement outlining:

- Approach to working on heritage and conservation-sensitive projects.
- Experience of working at height / health and safety arrangements.
- Experience of engaging with communities and stakeholders.

## Fee Proposal

Artists are invited to submit a **separate fixed lump-sum fee proposal for each gable** they wish to be considered for. The fee should cover all costs associated with the delivery of the commission, including but not limited to:

- Artist fees
- Design development and concept preparation
- Materials and consumables
- Site visits and attendance
- Travel expenses
- Accommodation (where required)
- Public liability and other relevant insurances
- Any specialist equipment not provided by the Council
- Any other associated project costs

Artists may submit a proposal for **one gable or both gables**. Where proposals are submitted for both locations, a separate fee and supporting information should be provided for each gable. The Council reserves the right to appoint a single artist to deliver both commissions or to award the commissions separately to different artists.

Applicants should **not include access equipment costs** within their fee proposals. The Council will be responsible for arranging and funding appropriate access equipment, in consultation with the appointed artist(s), to facilitate the installation of the artwork.

Applicants should also provide their **standard day rate** for any additional services or work requested outside the agreed scope of the commission.

Please send your submission electronically to [melanie@midpenninearts.org.uk](mailto:melanie@midpenninearts.org.uk) and mark your submission **Gable Art Project 2** followed by your **first** and **second name** in the subject line of the email. If you do not receive an email confirming your submission has been received within 24 hours of sending, please contact [nick@midpenninearts.org.uk](mailto:nick@midpenninearts.org.uk)

**The last date and time by which the submission should be received is 5pm on Friday 23 October.**

### **Evaluation of Submissions**

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Quality: 40%
- Experience: 40%
- Add Value: 10% (local knowledge/appreciation of the area and willingness to engage in wider publicity and comms activity).
- Price: 10%

Expected timescales for the appointment of artist/s are:

| Milestone                                             | Indicative Date   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Application Closing Date                              | 23 October 2026   |
| Shortlisting/Interviews                               | By 16 November    |
| Appointment of successful candidate/s                 | By end November   |
| Engagement meeting with project team and stakeholders | Early December    |
| Artist research/concept development                   | December/January  |
| Approval of final designs                             | By end January    |
| Completion of murals                                  | By end March 2027 |

### Insurance information

The successful candidate/s will be expected to hold or can commit to obtain the levels of insurance cover indicated below (please provide copies of certificates where possible):

- Public Liability Insurance - £2m
- Indemnity Insurance - £2m

The implementation of the artwork will require working at high level. The successful candidate will be expected to submit a Risk Assessment to the Council and will be responsible for their personal PPE clothing and equipment, and health & safety training (if applicable). The Council will organise access requirements (i.e. scaffolding, cherry picker) and any preparation works required to the gable/s in consultation with the artists and their requirements prior to installation of the artwork.