# Artist Response to Bloor Homes Housing Development, Thornbury Gloucestershire. May 2022

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It is with pleasure that I propose a considered site-responsive artistic response for Bloor Homes' housing development at Thornbury, Gloucestershire. May 2022.

It is my intention to make a relevant, engaging, and site-specific response to the development and its locality taking from the brief that 'the green aspect of the site is to be acknowledged and enhanced to promote wellbeing through participation and enjoyment'.

Ideas submitted include general overarching ideas and responses for functional sculptural designs. I look forward to visiting the site to inform and clarify responses.

As part of my research, I will visit the Fungarium at Kew Gardens to study fungi native to the area that are associated with Dr Richard William George Dennis (1910-2003): one of the 20th century's leading authorities on fungi born in Thornbury, Gloucestershire.

## Mycelium Table & Fungal Seating





I will respond to the needs and requirements of the location. Looking at the history and legacy of the area and inspired by the fungi work of Dr Richard William George Dennis I suggest a bespoke mycelium inspired round table approx. 4-5 foot diameter for the community garden, with mushroom shaped seating approx. 2-3 foot in length for the allotments. Both designs encourage communal meeting and sharing. The material employed would be cast white concrete with black inlay for the table. Budget and market place costings at time of fabrication will dictate viability and quantity of fungi inspired benches. Final seating designs (right hand side) will be informed by specimens collected by Dr Dennis.

# Wildflower & bulb planting, Community engagement & ecological enhancement

I wish to work with the landscape architect to identify area(s) that would benefit from wildflower sowing **and** bulb planting. In a climate of ecological emergency, I would propose a white planting scheme to reference the need to keep our planet cool through reflection and refraction, as identified in Under a White Sky by Elizabeth Kolbert. Bulbs and seeds could be planted and sown with assistance from residents and community to create pattern

and rhythm in the landscape. The project has scope to involve residents in discussion about issues pertinent to us all – ecological emergency and extinction rebellion.



#### Lime Light Perennial Meadow Seed Mix

A brand new addition to our perennial meadow seed mixes, Lime Light, shines bright for lovers of subtle colour and forms. Whites, greys, creams and lime greens are dominant, artfully accented with flashes of copper, orange, red and bronze to give seasonal variation. We're making room for exciting new seed mixes in the near future. Our Lime Light mix will be discontinued once all our stock has been sold.

Insect houses for resident's gardens. Community engagement & ecological enhancement.

To work with the residents to forage for sticks, twigs and leaves and assemble tin cans bee and insect homes with pine cones, bamboo & collected material, to extend an ecological reach from the allotment & community garden to the gardens of the residents.



## Potential way finding, street naming & tree planting.

There is opportunity for research into names of fungi, flora and fauna to yield suggestions for way finding and street naming. For example, motifs or names could be employed on signage. I note that existing vegetation within and surrounding the site is to be retained wherever possible and strengthened to enhance the site's visual containment, including along Morton Way. I understand that a mix of native and ornamental tree planting, shrubs and hedges will be provided throughout the site to assist with filtering views from the surrounding countryside and for the benefit of residents. I see potential to influence and work with the landscape architect to help extend an artistic legacy through sensitive placement of trees or shrubs in residents' gardens – linking the residential sites to the rural as far as possible.