

17 JOHN RYAN

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Jim Sparrow. I am a local artist, living and working in Rye and would really appreciate your consideration of my idea pertaining to a potential art installation/sculpture based on the work of local artist and author John Ryan.

I am contacting both yourselves and the Rother District Council in order to put forward a proposal for the construction and installation of a bronze statue of, arguably, the artist and author's most famous creation and mythical inhabitant of Rye: Captain Horatio Pugwash. I have already discussed my idea with Priscilla Ryan - John Ryan's widow - and her daughter, Isabel. They both greatly advocate my idea and I have attached their letter of endorsement.

Having moved here in 2016, I was unaware that one of my favourite childhood cartoon characters was in fact very much a part of the local landscape. With that in mind, I decided to put together this proposal in order to celebrate and advocate the work of one of Rye's most famous residents.

I have attached a series of images and, as you can see from the pictures attached, I am proposing a possible location for a sculpture of the pirate in the Gun Garden in Rye.

The images shown are taken from several sources: firstly a maquette of Captain Pugwash sculpted by myself which stands at approximately 11 inches tall (I have included images of the sculpture on its own for you to observe in more detail). The loose finish of the maquette is intended to follow in the style of John Ryan's original line drawings as seen in his books, rather than the later, crisper television animations.

The subsequent images show the maquette having been photographed and dropped into the Gun Garden using photoshop. It has then been coloured to appear bronze to give you an idea of how it may look in situ. Apologies that the quality of the Photoshop is not perfect, but hopefully it is enough for you to visualise my proposal.

Since starting work on this idea, it has been brought to my attention that a live action motion picture of Captain Pugwash is currently in production starring Nick Frost. With a feature film underway, this could lead to a surge in tourism in, and around, Rye. A statue could certainly work as a tourist attraction for both young and old alike, as well as adding a further exciting element to Rye's historical Gun Garden: Captain Pugwash cautiously preparing to fire one of the cannons!

Although I have designed the maquette specifically for the Gun Garden, I would like to stress that this is a single concept that I happen to think would be contextualised especially well in this locale. Other designs/poses could easily be conceived for many other potential locations in and around Rye, for example, by the waterfront, or in the John Ryan Memorial Garden.

Should it be green-lit by all parties, I would be looking for funding for this project and as such, would greatly appreciate any advice/suggestions as to whom I could contact regarding this matter, or if the council itself would consider investing in this installation themselves.

As an artist myself, I feel that this sculpture would be a fitting tribute to John Ryan and his most famous creation and would be much enjoyed by the residents of Rye and all those that come to visit this historical place.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Jim Sparrow

Indicative Costs

Quote from a foundry in the UK for a bronze casting of the Captain Pugwash Statue. The statue would stand approximately 4.5 - 5 feet in height. An estimate of the final cost for the statue from conception to installation would be around **£17,800**.

Sculpting of full size statue in clay:	£3,000
Moulding the original clay sculpture:	£2,500
Casting statue in bronze:	£10,500
Patination of bronze:	£800
Installation at site:	£1,000