

Background

Councillors will recall that in 2021, Rugeley Town Council received a grant of £23,500 from the Culture Recovery Fund, to go towards the creation of Cooling Towers that would form a trail between Rugeley Town Centre and the Power Station site. The original plan was that the towers would be created from concrete and placed outside with trees planted in the centre of them to form a green walkway. Councillors requested that the towers be created from recycled materials and the resultant 12 towers have been 3D printed from a mixture of wood pulp and sugar beet. Each tower is 1metre high and approx. 1m wide at the base.

8 of the towers were given to artist Kirsten Jesson who took inspiration from pictures submitted by local Year 4 pupils. The pupils brief was for ideas of things that they associated with Rugeley. Year 4 children were chosen as it was anticipated that they would be the youngest cohort to be admitted to the planned All Through School on the development site.

2 towers were taken on by The Hart School pupils and a further 2 towers have been taken by Brereton Million youth projects and decorated in the summer by local young people with the themes of the Mindfulness Garden, coal mining, Ravenhill Park, and VYS.

Given the fragility of the towers, staff have been working with local attractions / public access locations where they can go on display. In addition, details of the towers have been taken by Cannock Chase CAN App so that they can be launched on the CAN App in the coming weeks and form a trail for people to walk along – getting fitter and learning about their local area.

Launch

On Saturday 11th February, all 12 towers will be launched to the public and invited guests at an event being held in the Rose Theatre between 12noon and 4pm. A public invite has been placed on notice boards and gone onto the Council Facebook page.

There will be displays of artifacts relating to the power station site and local mining history associated with the power behind the power station; Zero Carbon Rugeley will be in attendance; Cannock Chase CAN app will be there to promote the App and activities that can be undertaken; other partners who are working towards the regeneration of the area will also be there. In addition, we will have bikes to ride where you get a virtual experience of mountain biking along the Perrys Trail on Cannock Chase. The final resting places for the towers will also be announced and the trail revealed.

Councillors are asked to note the launch and promote the event and the subsequent trail to the community.