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ISSN 1759762-5



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# The Worcestershire Pear Tree

## Worcester's own 'Angel of the North'

Back in October, it was announced that Worcester is to get its very own 'Angel of the North' in the shape of a huge Worcestershire black pear tree. 'The Worcestershire Pear Tree' sculpture created by Antony Poels, has won immediate admiration.

The giant structure is planned to sit in a Worcestershire field to welcome visitors to the county as they drive on the M5. The structure will be constructed from iron and steel and will be 21 metres tall, higher than the Angel of the North near Gateshead.

Mike Ashton, Chief Executive of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce which has already been consulted on the plans, said: "It is a great idea. We are proud of our county and this is a nice way to welcome people as well as making the area distinctive to visitors. It would be really good if local businesses were used to supply parts needed to create the sculpture."

A spokesman said the Angel of the North had had a "phenomenal" impact on tourism and trade in the north east and thought the giant black pear tree, something he described as "key to the county", could do the same thing for Worcestershire.

The steel structure and all the work to do with the construction represents the engineering tradition in the north of our county, while a pear tree represents the rural economy of the south.

In the current economic climate it is a necessary statement of confidence in the working skills of our community. It will encourage a sense of county identity, belonging and pride.

Such a project requires very wide consultation and conversations are taking place with the County Council Heads



An artist impression of Worcestershire Pear Tree' sculpture

of Departments Worcester College, the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, engineers and many others. A spokesman from the committee said they are "heartened and encouraged by their enthusiastic response and help". It is still early days but the aim is to 'plant' the tree in Olympic year 2012. The overall cost is expected to be in the region of £1.5 million and will be

privately funded. In due course, The Worcestershire Pear Tree committee plan to invite prominent business people from across the county to help drive the project forward. The Pear Tree will become an iconic image for Worcestershire UK.

Pears are also featured on the City of Worcester arms following a visit to the city by Queen Elizabeth 1 in August 1575

when, according to legend, she was so delighted by the sight of a heavily laden pear tree planted near the gate by which she entered the city that she ordered the City elders to add three black pears to the City Arms in recognition of the fine tree.

Visitors will be able to stop off and admire the sculpture using a car park containing between 50 and 100 spaces.

## Local student wins design competition

### Worcestershire Pear Tree Sculpture now has a logo!

When the Worcestershire Pear Tree committee (soon to become a charity) approached the Worcestershire College of Art and Design for expert help on graphic design there was an immediate response. Sculptor Antony Poels was invited to meet with the HND students and their tutor Sharon Goode. The Pear Tree project was described and the class of seven students agreed to compete in the presentation of a design of graphics to be used in the promotion of the WPT project. Their work would now be part of their HND qualification.

The entries were contrasting. There was a bold interpretation of the brief and some beautiful draftsmanship. The WPT committee enjoyed an unhurried consideration of seven excellent entries. Finally they were pleased to award first prize to student David Church, particularly for his skill in interpretation of the brief. The same group of students will be involved in a further competition, this time to design and build a website for the WPT project. Colin Foxall from Nexus Creative will be judging their work and is generously hosting the winning website.

Students under Tom Hill's tutelage are making an ongoing documentary that will be updated for the website so that people can view all the aspects of the developing creation. The students and all the people who are donating to the Worcestershire Pear Tree Sculpture project will be acknowledged with links through the website. [antony@antonypoels.com](mailto:antony@antonypoels.com)

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**January / February 2011**