



## Call for submissions

A memorial sculpture in memory of environmentalist Claire Sumners.

Plastic Free Seaford, on behalf of The Sumners Family and the Seaford Community are seeking submissions from artists and makers for a sculpture, or sculptural bench to be made and installed in memory of environmentalist Claire Sumners on Seaford Beach in East Sussex.

Full project brief included below. If you have any questions prior to submitting your idea please contact Fran Chorlton [plasticfreeseaford.community@gmail.com](mailto:plasticfreeseaford.community@gmail.com)

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**Submission deadline: 1st June 2023**

Submissions to be sent to: [plasticfreeseaford.community@gmail.com](mailto:plasticfreeseaford.community@gmail.com)

# About Claire Sumners



Claire was a devout environmentalist. Her passion, and dedication to the protection of our oceans and planet was infectious and as a result she inspired thousands of people, not only in her home town, but across the UK.

Claire was the regional representative of Surfers Against Sewage and was the original founder of the Plastic Free Seaford community group. Alongside this voluntary work she was also a well followed influencer on social media as Zero Waste Maman (a nod to her French family history).

Her environmental work began shortly after the birth of her first child, Jack, when she became aware of the polluted world he would be growing up into, and the amount of waste created in their

home. She didn't want her children to live in a sea filled with plastics, or a world riddled with climate crisis. So she made it her life's work to support the environment and help others to do the same. Her hope was that she could make a future for her children, who meant everything to her.

Claire dreamed of a world which stopped producing plastic drinks bottles and take away coffee cups which are responsible for millions of tonnes of waste each year, leaking micro plastics into our food chain and chemicals into our water.

As the SAS Rep Claire dedicated her time to working with local schools and businesses to help them reduce their plastic consumption and carbon footprints. she supported children in understanding how important our planet is, and how they can protect their futures.

Her work did not go un-noticed by the local authorities, Claire worked closely with Seaford town Council to gain Plastic Free Status in 2019. She also volunteered as an advisor for East Sussex Council and Lewes District Council.



In 2019 Claire worked with local arts charity SCIP on The Green Show, and created a film about her work as SAS representative which can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3pFMpsyOqU>

*“If there is anything that my legacy of living in Seaford would be it would be getting everyone to invest in a refillable, reusable water bottle. Considering the heart-breaking statistic that there is a million bottles sold every minute on the planet, take that home and digest. Hopefully we can all make a pledge that we have ditched using single using plastics. ”*

In November 2021 Claire was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and she passed away in March 2023. Her ashes are scattered in the sea on Seaford bay close to the position of the memorial.

Her husband Chris, and children Matilda and Jack want not only her memory to live on through this memorial, but also her dedication and passion for the environment and her community.

Her hard work and commitment continues today through the work of the Plastic Free Seaford team who run monthly beach cleans and support the plastic free community.



Just a few days before Claire passed away she made a farewell Instagram message to her friends and followers. In this emotive farewell she wrote these poignant words.

*“Burn bright, fight my fight,  
don’t extinguish my light”*

Claire Sumners, March 2022

Submissions guide for Claire Sumners Memorial

# About the memorial

The Sumners family and those involved in managing this project are open to a wide range of creative responses to the brief. Claire was a huge supporter of the arts and she would want her memorial to be functional yet beautiful so that everyone can enjoy it.

It is important to the Sumners family that the sculpture, or sculptural bench in some way includes or is inspired by the shape or form of a mermaid. As a keen sea swimmer Claire always felt as if she was meant to have been part of the ocean and was drawn to the imagery of mermaids. This can be a simple, smaller part of the design or the main inspiration.

Metal and stone are preferred materials, however recycled composite plastic and wood may be considered if durability can be guaranteed.

There are some features which are desirable and others which are essential when considering your design ideas for the memorial.

## Essential

- Must fit within local environment
- must be made using sustainable materials
- must be made using durable materials
- Contains her parting words *"burn bright, fight my fight, don't extinguish my light"*
- must celebrate Claire's passion of the ocean
- must contain the shape or form of a mermaid in some way.
- must be interactive in some way, ie can be sat on or climbed on.
- must have Claire's name on the sculpture
- must point viewers to the plastic free community guidelines (this can be a small plaque added discreetly with website or qr code – open to ideas and discussion)

## Size

The sculpture must be no wider than 2m and no taller than 1.10m

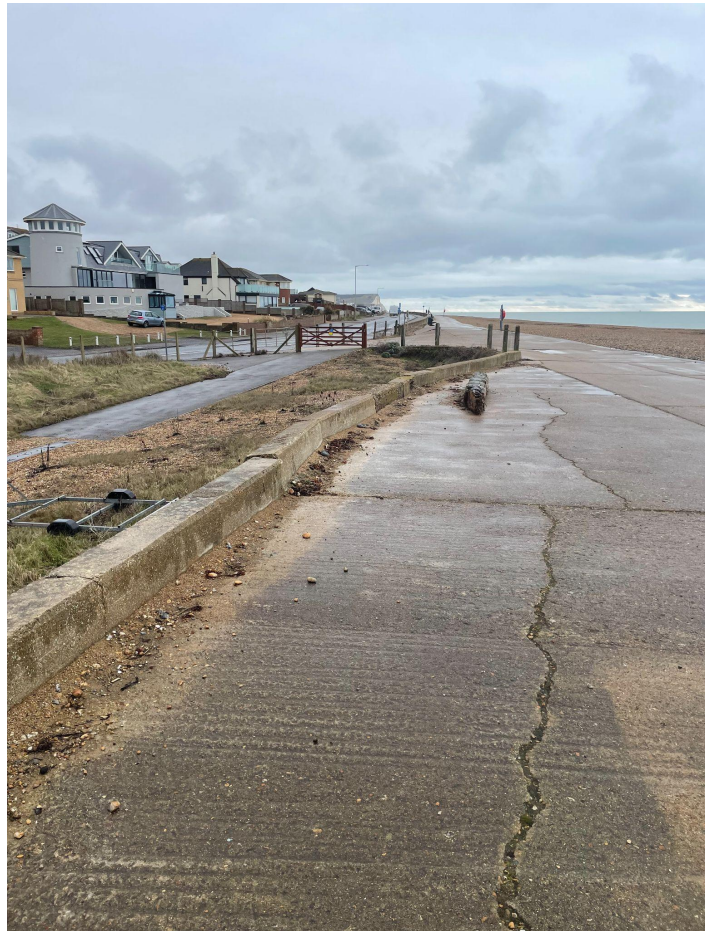
# About the memorial site

The site is located on Seaford promenade adjacent to the Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club. This location overlooks Seaford Bay, looks out to the Rampion Windfarm and westward to the Newhaven lighthouse and port. This was the location of many of Claire's community beach cleans.

It is completely exposed to the British coastal weather so anything placed here must be secured and able to withstand hurricane strength winds.

A site visit can be arranged with you at any time.

The location has been selected in consultation with Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club, Seaford Town Council and The Environmental Agency.



You can locate this on 'What3words' using [///engraving.alarm.tech](https://www.what3words.com/en/engraving.alarm.tech)

## Considerations & restrictions

The following must also be considered when designing and installing the memorial

- The memorial must be no wider than 2m and no taller than 1.10m
- The memorial must be made from a materials which can withstand brutal British storms
- The memorial must be installed permanently and secured into the ground.
- The memorial must be made in a way that requires little or no long-term maintenance
- The memorial must be made from a sustainable material

### **Before the installation**

A full risk assessment to be provided by the artist for the installation process



## Budget

We are looking for submissions where the budget for design, build and installation do not exceed £10,000.

## Stakeholders

The following individuals and organisations are involved in the selection process and permissions process of this project:

- Fran Chorlton - on behalf of Plastic Free Seaford
- Chris Sumners (Claire's husband)
- Alice Carter (family friend and creative event manager)
- The Rotary Club of Seaford
- Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club
- The Environment Agency

## What to include in your submission

We are very excited to hear about your ideas for a memorial to Claire Sumners. Please send us your proposal by the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 and include:

1. full memorial concept with visual sketches of the design.
2. full project budget including design, build and installation costs.
3. links to previous work
4. your full name and contact details.

Submissions to be sent to: [plasticfreeseaford.community@gmail.com](mailto:plasticfreeseaford.community@gmail.com)