

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 14 May 2018

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	End of World War I Centenary Commemoration Activities
Report of:	Head of Leisure and Corporate Services
Corporate Priorities:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the proposals for commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I later this year.

Executive summary:

A number of events, including the unveiling of a commemoration stone, took place in Fareham during the summer of 2014 to mark the centenary of the start of World War I.

At the 6 November 2017 Executive, it was agreed that a decision on a proposed mural to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I in 2018 would be deferred as there were concerns over its durability and officers were asked to explore alternative options.

Officers have now identified two proposals as stated below:

- (i) Commemoration stone to be erected in the pedestrian area of West Street with a Civic unveiling event to take place during Autumn half-term; and
- (ii) Silent Soldier sculptures to be erected in five locations across the Borough that have a connection to World War I.

There will be opportunities for residents to take part in activities linked to the unveiling of the commemoration stone in the town centre.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) agrees that a Commemoration stone be erected in West Street to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1;
- (b) agrees that five Silent Soldier sculptures be erected across the Borough in the five previous CAT areas;
- (c) chooses one site in each of the old CAT areas, from the options presented in the briefing paper, to locate the Silent Soldier sculptures; and
- (d) agrees that the project will be funded from 2017/18 underspends to the sum of £10,250.

Reason:

In order to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I.

Cost of proposals:

The cost of the proposals will be approximately £10,250. This should be met from underspends carried forward from the previous year.

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

Reference papers: 6 November 2017 – Report to the Executive

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	14 May 2018
Subject:	End of World War I Centenary Commemoration Activities
Briefing by:	Head of Leisure and Corporate Services
Portfolio:	Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the proposals that are planned to take place to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I (WWI).

BACKGROUND

2. A number of events, including the unveiling of a commemoration stone, took place in Fareham during the summer of 2014, to mark the centenary of the start of World War I.
3. The war lasted from the 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918 and it would be appropriate to commemorate the centenary of the end of the war this autumn.

PROPOSALS

4. In order to provide a fitting tribute, the following proposals are suggested to commemorate the centenary of the end of WWI.

Commemoration Stone in West Street

5. The commemoration stone would be positioned by the Tree of Life on the eastern end of the pedestrian area in West Street. This would provide symmetry with the commemoration stone by the Tree of Life on the western end of West Street, which was installed to mark the start the centenary of the beginning of the war in 2014 (see below).

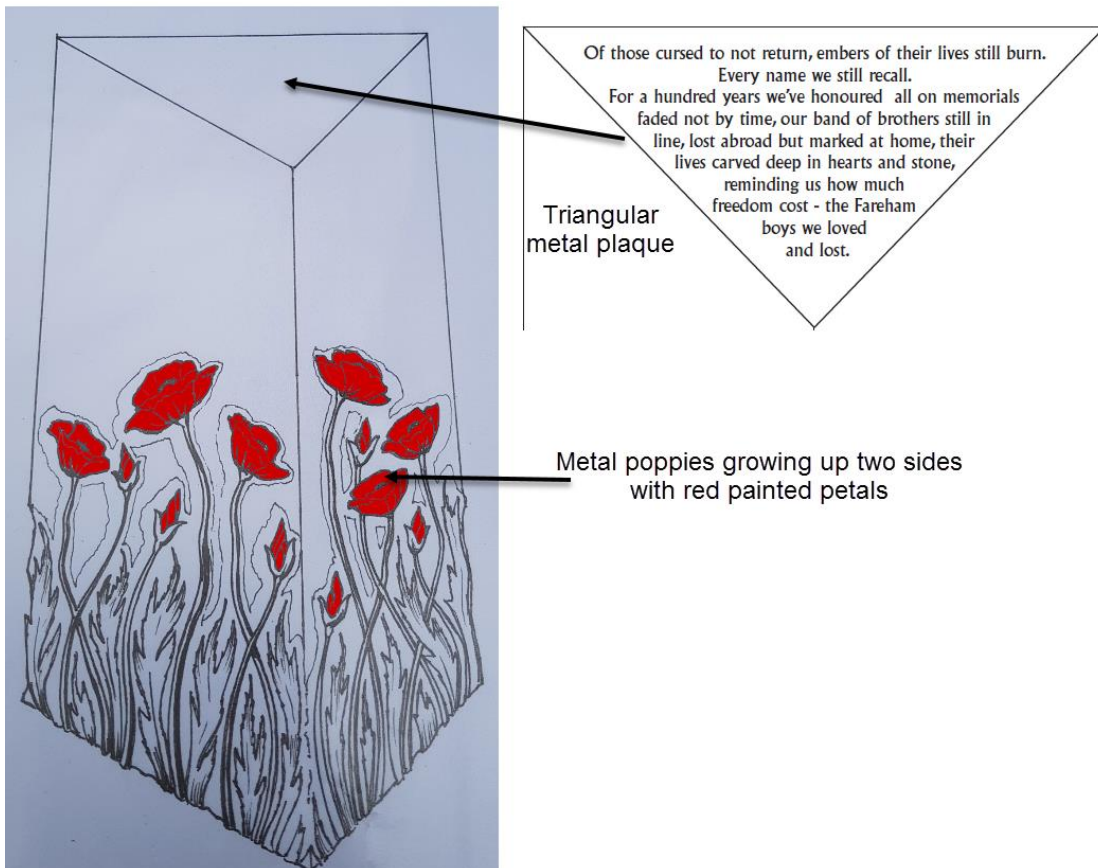


2014 Commemoration



Proposed Commemoration

6. A local artist has created a design for a memorial stone approximately 1m high and made from polished grey granite, which is hard wearing, easy to clean and reasonably vandal proof.
7. Metal poppies with red painted heads would 'grow' up the two front sides with a triangular metal inscription at the top. The drawing below gives an indication of what the commemoration would look like and the inscription proposed to be placed at the top.



8. It is proposed that the commemoration stone would be unveiled as part of a Civic event taking place in autumn half-term in the week commencing 22 October.
9. A plaque would be installed in the ground next to the commemoration stone noting the date that the plaque was unveiled.
10. Hampshire Cultural Trust has expressed an interest in hosting WWI themed activities for the public on the day, alongside the 'Lost Sons of Fareham' photography exhibition, which was first exhibited at Holy Trinity Church in 2014 by the Council in conjunction with a local photographer.

The Silent Soldiers

11. The Royal British Legion (RBL) are promoting a campaign to install the Silent Soldier sculptures across the country to commemorate the centenary of the war. Funding raised from the purchase of the sculptures goes directly to the RBL.
12. The near life-size silhouettes represent "*Tommy*" returning home silently at the end of the war, but also remember those who lost their lives and never made it back.
13. The soldiers are made of lightweight metal and need to be fixed to a surface. They are designed for temporary use and should last approximately 2 years.



14. It is proposed that it would be a fitting tribute for one Silent Soldier to be located at a site with a connection to WW1 in each of the five old CAT areas; Western Wards, Titchfield, Crofton, Fareham Town and Portchester. This would commemorate the local heritage across the Borough, whilst also marking the sacrifice made by residents in different communities within Fareham. Possible locations and connections to WW1 for each area are listed below.

Fareham Town

- **Train Station:** Many troops, including injured ones travelled through there to naval yards and hospital in Gosport. Permission from South Western Railways will need to be sought.

- **War Memorial at Holy Trinity Church:** Unveiled in 1921 by Reverend Charles Lowther Arnold who lost two sons in the First World War. Permission from the Church will need to be sought.

Portchester

- **Portchester Memorial Column:** The memorial is located in Portchester Precinct and is dedicated to the people of Portchester who gave their lives during war.
- **Portchester Train Station:** Both troops, and supplies passed through the station. Permission from South Western Railways will need to be sought.

Titchfield

- **St Peter's Church:** Vicar of Titchfield, Rev. Charles Matthews, went to France in 1915 to serve as a chaplain and minister. Permission from the Church will need to be sought.
- **Outside Parish Rooms:** A Memorial Stone is positioned outside of the rooms to mark local residents who gave their lives in World Wars 1 and 2. Permission from the hall trustees will need to be sought.

Crofton

- **Daedalus:** *HM Naval Seaplane Training School, Lee-on-the-Solent* (a unit of the Royal Naval Air Service) was opened in 1917, with the aim of training seaplane pilots for anti-submarine patrols.
- **Stubbington Green War Memorial:** Erected in 1922, to commemorate those who died in the war.

Western Wards

- **St Paul's Church Sarisbury Green:** The location of a WW1 and WW2 cross of remembrance. Permission from the Church will need to be sought.
- **Warsash War Memorial:** Located at Victory Hall, Warsash Road. Permission from the Hall Trustees would need to be sought.

Projected Budget

15. The table below outlines the projected costs for all projects within this report.

Project	Cost
Commemorative Stone (Including plaque)	£7,000
Commemorate Event	£2,000
Silent Soldiers	£1,250
Total Cost	£10,250

RISK ASSESSMENT

16. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The total cost of the project is £10,250 which should be met from underspends carried forward from the previous year.

CONCLUSION

18. The Council would like to provide a fitting tribute to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I later in the year. It is proposed that a commemoration stone is erected in the pedestrian area of West Street and unveiled at a Civic Event. In addition, Silent Soldier sculptures could be located in five areas across the Borough with a connection to WWI.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Lindsey Ansell, Head of Leisure and Corporate Services (Ext 4567)