

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **24 July 2013**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **PROPOSALS TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF WW1
AND 70th ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the proposals that are planned to take place to commemorate the centenary of World War I and the 70th anniversary of D day.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to support the proposals outlined in the report and request that the Executive considers the report and allocates the funding required to implement all proposals.

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 World War I and the 70th anniversary of D Day.

BACKGROUND

2. Across the Country, there will be a significant number of events planned to commemorate the centenary of WW1, which started on 4 August 1914 and also the 70th anniversary of D Day landings which commenced on 6 June 1944.
3. Both Fareham and Hampshire Councils would also like to commemorate both by planning a number of events to involve the whole community.

PROPOSALS

4. In order to provide a long lasting legacy, the following proposals have been put together to commemorate both the WW1 centenary and the 70th anniversary of D Day.

Holy Trinity Church open space - Landscaping enhancement

5. The open space at the rear of Holy Trinity Church is a little known open space that is effectively a green oasis in Fareham Town Centre. With some improvements it could become a very attractive area for people to visit and enjoy.
6. It is therefore proposed that the following projects be considered to both commemorate the WW1 & 70th anniversary of D Day whilst improving the open space for use by the wider community.
 - (a) The planting of a Wildflower Meadow along the Western boundary. The sowing of this meadow would either be undertaken during Autumn 2013 or Spring 2014 depending on weather conditions. The time of flowering would be during May to August 2014.
 - (b) The planting of several rose beds on the southern boundary. The roses would be of a red variety called 'Red Velvet' suitable for such a commemorative planting. They would be planted in November 2013 and would come into flower between May to September 2014.
 - (c) A number of trees planted to add some interest, height and future shade into the open space. These would be planted during winter 2013 or 2014.
 - (d) The installation of two benches to provide areas where residents and visitors to Fareham can sit and enjoy the open space. These could be installed prior to June 2014.
 - (e) There is an opportunity to place two plaques within the open space. These could either be placed on the benches or adjacent to the trees. The positioning could be determined at a later date.

Queen Elizabeth II sites – Wild flower meadows

7. Members will recall that four of the Council's recreation grounds were given QE11 status, which means they are protected indefinitely from development. The sites are as follows:
 - Allotment Road Recreation Ground, Sarisbury
 - Bath Lane Recreation Ground, Fareham
 - Seafield Park, Hill Head
 - Wicor recreation ground, Portchester
8. It is proposed that an area within each site is set aside for the sowing of a wildflower meadow. The sowing would be undertaken either during Autumn 2013 or Spring 2014 depending on weather conditions. The time of flowering would be during May to August 2014.

Remember - wild flower seed packets

9. These post card seed packets offer a personal and unique opportunity for community participation through the sowing of small packets of red poppy seeds entitled 'Remember'.
10. Their ease of distribution and desirability make them easily marketable and suitable for sowing in a host of applications including pots, gardens, schools and allotments.
11. The seed packets produced last year as part of the Going Wild project have proved very popular and offer a low cost option for engaging people whilst developing an awareness of the importance of wildflowers and supporting wildlife.
12. The artwork for the seed packets will be confirmed by December 2013 with distribution during Feb 2014 ready for sowing in the spring.

Community involvement

13. There will be a number of opportunities for the community to get involved with some of the projects listed above which will be carried out in conjunction with the Fareham in Bloom volunteers.

ARTS AND MUSEUMS – POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN FAREHAM

14. Hampshire County Council Museum and Arts Service will also be engaging the community in a variety of events throughout Fareham. Although not yet finalised, the list below provides some initial thoughts on what may be undertaken during 2014.
 - (a) A community day to involve the whole community. The day will send Fareham back to 1914, complete with a conscription station where young people will be "conscripted" into the Army/Navy. This will involve volunteers undergoing various tests, then having their photograph taken in their uniform and being issued with their papers. Shop keepers will be encouraged to dress their local businesses in 1914 style. It is hoped to involve HMS Collingwood as a key partner.

The exact date for this event is yet to be decided but it is likely to be a Saturday in late

July/ early Aug 2014.

- (b) Ashcroft Arts Centre has received £49,000 funding to deliver a project, working with young people in Fareham and Gosport. The project will see young people research local stories linked to WW1 and develop a range of responses to these including films, exhibition materials and workshops. The young people will also have an immersive experience living in a replica trench for two days.

This project will run from September 2013 – December 2014.

- (c) The outcome of the project will be the production of films, which should be available for screening in July/August and then again in November. The exhibition which will form part of the larger exhibition in Westbury Manor and the workshops will be in Autumn 2014
- (d) There will be an exhibition at Westbury Manor in Autumn 2014, and a variety of workshops.

15. Officers from both Fareham and Hampshire County Council will be meeting later in the summer to discuss the projects in more detail.

CIVIC EVENTS

16. It is proposed that on Monday 4 August 2014, the Mayor and Executive Leader will unveil a commemorative plaque/stone in West Street, Fareham, in memory of all those who lost their lives, or suffered during WW1. Representatives of HMS Collingwood, the Armed Forces, local voluntary organisations and the clergy would be invited to attend and participate.

17. It is suggested that the plaque/stone be laid in the centre of the podium in West Street as a lasting tribute.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The table below sets out the projected costs for all projects within this report.

Project	Cost
Trinity Church Open Space	
Wildflower meadow	£1000
Rose beds	£1100
Tree planting	£ 900
Seats/benches	£1500
Memorial plaques	£600
QE11 Sites	
Wildflower meadows	£3000
Remember	
5000 Wildflower seed packets/cards	£2500
Commemorative Event	£2000
Total cost	£12,600

19. An application is currently being prepared to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant from the "First World War: then and now" fund, to go towards the cost of the projects. At the current time it is unknown as to whether an application will be successful.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

21. Members are requested to support the proposals outlined in the report and request that the Executive considers the report and allocates the funding required to implement all proposals.

Background Papers:

[Appendix A – Proposals for the WW1 Centenary and D Day 70th Anniversary celebrations](#)

[Appendix B – Wildflower Seed Packet Artwork](#)

Reference Papers:

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Sue Woodbridge, Public and Open Spaces Manager (Ext 4546)