

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 10 February 2014

Portfolio: Leisure and Community
Subject: **First World War Memorial**
Report of: Director of Community
Strategy/Policy: Corporate Strategy
Corporate Objective: Strong and Inclusive Communities

Purpose:

To outline the options available for a memorial to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War.

Executive summary:

The date of 4 August 2014 will mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. To commemorate the occasion, it is proposed that a lasting memorial be created within Fareham. A number of locations and design options have been identified in order to find the most suitable option for consideration.

A report to the Executive in September 2013 approved funding for an event to mark the centenary. It is proposed that a memorial unveiling ceremony be included as part of the planning for the event.

Recommendation:

Option 3 – The Tree of life, choosing the location closest to Argos on West Street, Fareham.

Reason:

The recommended option is considered to be the best location in terms of access, and also minimises the potential issues of having a memorial in a high traffic area.

Cost of proposals:

£3,800 is requested to meet the cost of the memorial and planning application. The funds include a small contingency for any unforeseen costs.

Appendix A: Proposed Memorial Wording

Background papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 10 February 2014

Subject: First World War Memorial

Briefing by: Director of Community

Portfolio: Leisure and Community

INTRODUCTION

1. The date of 4 August 2014 will mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. To commemorate the occasion, the Council is proposing to create a lasting memorial within Fareham. This report outlines the options that have been identified and provides details of the costs for each.
2. In considering the location and design of the memorial, a number of locations within Fareham Town Centre have been identified. The design options within the report are linked to the locations, due to the constraints each location has.
3. There is the potential for wreaths and other items to be laid alongside or on any memorial that is erected. This could present a problem, depending on the design and location of the memorial. The Council may need to adopt a policy, depending on the extent of the issue, which sets out when items will be removed from the memorial. The policy could then be communicated to the public, to minimise the risk of complaints about items being left or removed from the memorial.
4. In considering a memorial, example wording has been drafted, which could be placed on any of the memorials that are outlined in this report. The exact wording may vary depending upon the space available. The cost for the wording is likely to be based on the number of letters, but until the final wording is finalised, a precise cost cannot be provided. The draft wording is set out in Appendix A.

PROPOSAL

5. That the Executive review the detailed options, listed below, and approve funding to be made available for the construction and installation of a lasting memorial.

6. A report to the Executive in September 2013 included a request for funding, for an event, to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. It is proposed that the unveiling of the memorial be included in the planning of this event.

DETAILED OPTIONS

Option 1

7. The Pavilion, or band stand, in West Street was identified as a potential location for a memorial, because of its central location. The first option considered was to lay a stone at the centre of the pavilion with wording on it to reflect the occasion.



8. The central location of the stone makes this an interesting option; however the pavilion is hired out and used by a number of different organisations and market stall holders. This issue, alongside the fact that a lot of people are likely to walk over the stone, raises some concerns as to whether this is a suitable location for a memorial.
9. The Council's Landscape Architect has carried out some research and identified that a stone could be acquired for £850 (exc. VAT), plus £1.85 per letter (exc. VAT). Based upon the proposed wording it is estimated that the stone would cost approximately £1,450.

Option 2

10. The second option is also located at the pavilion, but instead, proposes to place a plaque in between two of the columns as a memorial. This option removes the potentially contentious issue of people walking over a memorial stone.
11. A plaque would be more visible than a stone, but does raise a potential issue with people who have sight problems. Due to the plaque being raised off of the floor, there would be a risk of people bumping into the sign.



12. The Landscape Architect has also been able to collate estimates for the likely cost of this option. Using the same sort of wording for the memorial stone, it is estimated that the plaque would cost approximately the same as Option 1.

Option 3

13. Option 3 proposes to create a memorial by one of the Tree of Life structures on West Street. Number 1 is located close to Argos and number 2 is located close to the opposite end of the shopping centre.

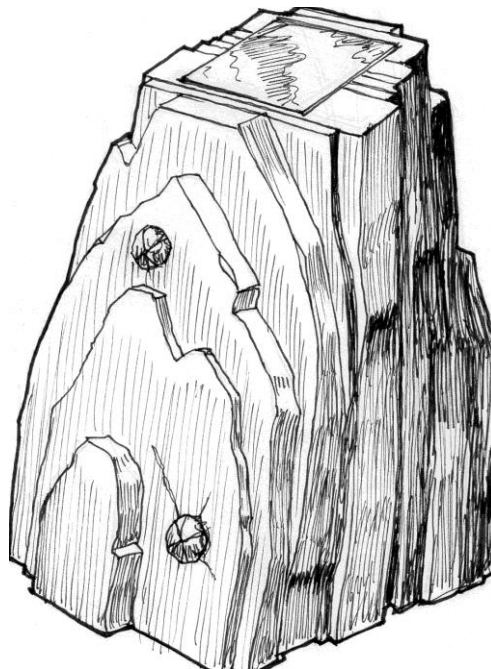


14. Both of the proposed locations are on a raised pavement, which means there is less of a trip hazard created.

15. If wreaths etc. were placed on the raised pavement, again this would not create a hazard for pedestrians.
16. The intention would be to place the memorial in front of the tree of life, on the side of the pedestrian area of West Street. The image below provides an idea of the sort of space that is available.



17. The sketch below is an initial design for the memorial.



Design by Peter Clutterbuck

18. It is estimated that the design would cost approximately £3,300 (exc. VAT). The cost includes the plaque located at the top of the design.
19. The design is described as a sandwich of steel plates, marble, slate, bronze and copper with a rugged finish to the sides. The top face of the design will be polished for the plaque. The plaque itself will be cast aluminium and will be finished in paint lacquer in the same way as the Falklands Arch plaques.

CONSULTATIONS

20. Throughout the process, discussions have been held with the Council's Landscape Architect, to help identify suitable locations and potential designs for the memorial.
21. Discussions have been held with Development Management to identify potential planning requirements for the designs. Following this consultation it has been identified that the plaque at the pavilion (Option 2) and the upright memorial (Option 3) will require planning permission at a cost of £385.
22. Investigations have revealed that the proposed land is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. Work is underway to obtain agreement, in principle, with the proposals outlined within the report.

CONCLUSION

23. Option 3 is the preferred option, using the upright memorial, because this is a good location for people to be able to see and access. The location also minimises the potential issues that may arise from people laying wreaths or other items at the memorial or tripping over the memorial itself.
24. £3,800 is requested for from the Executive for the design and implementation of the memorial, including the planning process. This sum includes a small contingency to cover any unforeseen costs.

Reference Papers: None