



AGENDA ITEM: 5(p)

CABINET 17th March 2015

**Joint Report of: Assistant Director Community Services
Assistant Director Planning**

**Relevant Managing Directors: Managing Director (People and Places)
Managing Director (Transformation)**

Relevant Portfolio Holders: Cllrs M Forshaw/D.Sudworth

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SUBJECT: ROLL OF HONOUR, WAR MEMORIAL, CORONATION PARK

Wards affected: Scott, Derby, Knowsley

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider Phase II of the re-location of the Ormskirk War Memorial in Coronation Park, and approve the approach to be taken for adding the names of the servicemen to be included on the memorial plaques.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the roll of honour engraved upon the new Ormskirk War Memorial shall be transcribed directly from the names on the memorial plaque recovered from the Comrades of the Great War Club.

2.2 That the inscriptions shown in Appendix 1, be added to the new war memorial.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Ormskirk Comrades club closed in 2008 and due to the site being sold for new development the Trustees asked the Council to relocate the war memorial from the previous site to a new location in Coronation Park, Ormskirk.
- 3.2 In 2011 Members approved the re-location and enhancement of the Ormskirk Comrades Club War Memorial to a new site within Coronation Park (Cabinet 17th January 2011 – War Memorial, Coronation Park, Ormskirk).
- 3.3 A subsequent planning permission was granted for the siting of the war memorial, including the construction of 2 no. 1.8m high memorial walls and the hard paving area around the memorial in May 2012 (application 2012/0379/WL3 refers).
- 3.4 Phase I of this re-location involved the re-location of the stone memorial, provision of new base plinth, and new reception area. These works were completed in October 2012.
- 3.5 Phase II of the works, involves the erection of the new stone walls to be engraved with the names of the fallen servicemen taken from the roll of honour. These works would also involve the addition of other appropriate inscriptions, installation of suitable lighting for the existing memorial, and additional seating. All of these works will be funded by the Trustees of the former Comrades Club.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Preparations are currently being made for the start of the Phase II works, and a crucial element of this is to determine the specifics of the engraving to go on the new memorial plaques and in particular agree the approach taken in relation to the names to be added.
- 4.2 The Comrades Club memorial includes a roll of honour which recorded the names of the fallen servicemen of World War I. Together with the stone memorial this forms the current record and should be the basis of the names to be engraved on the stone wall plaques. When the war memorial was re-dedicated in 2012 a scroll with the names included on the Roll of Honour was buried within the foundation of the new site.
- 4.3 The stone wall plaques and feature stone 'bands' within the existing paving will accommodate further appropriate inscriptions to add to the poignancy and impact of the memorial (see Appendix 1 – Ormskirk War Memorial Inscriptions).

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 War memorials are important public monuments which play a key role in our social history, as they commemorate the lives lost in wars and are a focus for our public remembrance in November each year.
- 5.2 On the whole the names of the fallen servicemen who fought in the wars are remembered on our memorials. They were people known by their families and by local people and communities in which, they lived. Introducing names to war memorials is a very sensitive matter and one which needs careful consideration.
- 5.3 The War Memorials Trust (WMT) advises that care needs to be taken to verify the research names added onto war memorials. The WMT does however recommend that the local community should be consulted before action is taken on proposals to add names onto a War Memorial.

5.4 **Option 1;**

Given the sensitivity of the work it is felt the most appropriate way forward involves adding the list of names from the existing Roll of Honour. Together they form the existing memorial. This approach has the support of the Trustees of the Comrades Club.

- 5.5 This approach would have the benefit of requiring little or no further research and would be easy to implement within the timetable of an October 2015 completion.
- 5.6 The option would not preclude amendments/additions being made in the future. Space exists on the stone 'plaque' walls to add new names, including servicemen and women who may lose their lives in the future.

5.7 **Option 2;**

The Council has received a suggestion from a member of the public that the Roll of Honour be extended to include further names of servicemen from the area who lost their lives in previous conflicts including World War 2.

- 5.8 The Council has an approved Protocol for amending or adding names to war memorials which was approved by members in July 2014.
- 5.9 It should be noted that the assessments required, under the protocol, are time consuming and that this may delay the implementation of the project.
- 5.10 Option 1 would not preclude the opportunity to add the names of the men who lost their lives in World War 2. This work, including the research, into the names to be added, could be carried out under a further phase (phase 3) once the stone plaques are in place.
- 5.11 Regardless of the option taken in respect to adding the names it is also proposed to engrave the two verses (verses three and four) from Laurence Binyons "For the Fallen" upon the new stone wall plaques and to engrave the two lines from the Kohima Epitaph within the existing stone banding in the paved

area leading up to the memorial (shown in Appendix 1 appended to this report). Appendix 2 shows a drawing of the positions of the different inscriptions on the memorial.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 6.1 The proposal further enhances the appearance and function of Coronation Park and provides for a further improved location for the Ormskirk war memorial. The proposal compliments the strategy and improvements already undertaken in the park and provides a suitably sensitive location for a locally important community memorial.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Capital costs of the scheme (phase 2) are yet to be finalised but will be in the region of £25,000. These costs, plus project management costs, will be funded by the Trustees of the former Comrades Club.
- 7.2 The Council will also seek to secure from the Trustees of the former Comrades Club a contingency sum to cover any possible future costs associated with adding WW2 names to the memorial.
- 7.3 As with Phase 1 of the scheme the ownership of the facility will be taken on by the Council with a commuted sum for maintenance from the Comrades Club to cover a ten year period.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Establishing agreement now as to which names will be engraved upon the memorial would hopefully prevent future disagreements, and prevent delays which might jeopardise the aim of completing this phase of the scheme by October 2015.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a significant direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix 3 to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the recommendations contained within this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Ormskirk War Memorial Inscriptions

Appendix 2 – Drawing showing the locations of the inscriptions

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment