



**ARTICLE NO:**

**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW & SCRUNITY**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2018/2019**

**ISSUE: 2**

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**Article of: Director Development and Regeneration**

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**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE**

- 1.1 To advise Members on the progress of the commemorations taking place within the Borough, to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One (WW1).

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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This year marks the culmination of the centenary of the First World War (WW1) and Armistice Day on 11 November 2018 will be the focus for nationwide remembrance to mark the end of the conflict. Nationally over the last four years there has been an increase in public interest shown in remembrance of WW1 and war memorials and it is highly likely that there will be considerable public interest in this year's centenary.
- 3.2 As the Council will play a key role in delivering the commemorations taking place in the borough a cross divisional officer Working Group was set up to help make sure that we are appropriately prepared for November, to discuss the programme of events and identify possible projects. The group is made up of officers from Development and Regeneration Services, Leisure and Environmental Services, Housing and Inclusion Services and Legal and

Democratic Services, who have a role in managing and delivering how the Council will commemorate the event.

## **4.0 CURRENT SITUATION – EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

### **4.1 Battles Over – A Nations Tribute project**

This will start with a Pipers tribute playing 'When the Battle's O'er' at 6.00am on 11 November at the war memorial in Coronation Park to mark the time when the Armistice was signed in 1918. The event which will be open to the public to attend will be co-ordinated by the Park Rangers who will be in attendance. Immediately after Town Criers throughout the Country are being asked to make a proclamation to mark the end of the war. Further details of the event will follow later in the autumn.

### **4.2 Beacons of Light project**

This involves lighting the beacon in Beacon Country Park at 7.00pm on the 11 November. The lighting of the beacon will be replicated across the Country with more than 370 Councils and up to 1000 beacon sites having confirmed their involvement in this shared commemoration project. The event will start with a formal civic procession to the Beacon with a band in attendance and finish with refreshments in the visitor centre. Prior to the lighting of the beacons the Last Post will be played at 06.55pm across the Country. Further activities will be planned around the event. The programme and detailed timetable for the evening will be confirmed shortly.

### **4.3 Silent Soldier silhouettes**

The Royal British Legion (RBL) are encouraging Council's and Community Groups to purchase *Silent Soldier silhouettes*, which are a large black board silhouettes of a soldier with a white base plate plaque bearing the 1914-1918 and Poppy emblems and the text "Lest We Forget". The 'soldiers' can be ground mounted or placed on or against a building. We have purchased three soldier silhouettes from the RBL and are currently awaiting delivery. The silhouettes will be located at Ormskirk (Coronation Park), Burscough and Skelmersdale War Memorials. The silhouettes will be ground mounted, in locations, to be agreed, within the memorial gardens in October 2018.

### **4.4 Cleaning of Memorials**

As part of the commemorations we are planning to ensure that all our memorials are clean and tidy and in a good state of repair. The surrounding paved areas will be washed down in advance of Armistice Day. A walk through survey has been carried identifying the works which need to take place on the Council owned memorials and memorial gardens. The cleaning works will take place in September/October with all the Council's memorials being checked again in the weeks leading up to Armistice Day.

#### 4.5 Memorial Gardens

We will make sure the memorial gardens are all clean and tidy and existing flower beds will have specific bedding to help mark out the period of remembrance.

#### 4.6 Repair to Up Holland War Memorial

The name plaques on Up Holland War Memorial are to be re-gilded. The project will be carried out in partnership with Up Holland Parish Council. The extent of the works have been agreed with a specialist contractor. Works are likely to commence in late September/October and will be weather dependant.

#### 4.7 Centenary Web page

To help provide information on the events and projects taking place and to provide a 'sign-post' to other community based events and projects a new WW1 Centenary Web page has been developed.

#### 4.8 Ormskirk Clock Tower and Skelmersdale Light Cube

The Clock Tower and Light Cube will be coloured red for a short period in advance and during the period to show our wider community respect for the commemorations.

#### 4.9 WW1 Art Project – the impact of WW1 on Women's lives

The Council has been successful in securing funding from Heritage Lottery for this partnership (WLBC, Edge Hill University and Ormskirk & District Family History Society) art project which celebrates the role of women in WW1. The exhibition and project are planned to run from 6 October until 19 January 2019.

#### 4.10 The Free Tree Scheme

The Free Tree scheme will be providing residents with the opportunity to plant a fruit tree during November 2018. We will again be giving away a pack of Flanders red Poppy seeds with every tree to mark the centenary period. The focus this year will be enabling local community groups and Parish Councils to get groups of residents together to plant community orchards. As part of this scheme there is the potential to undertake commemorative tree planting.

#### 4.11 Guided 'War Horse' walk

The popular War Horse walk leaflet has been relaunched. A second free guided walk from Ormskirk railway station to Lathom Chapel following the route took place on 8 September 2018.

4.12 All the projects listed above are in addition to the Civic Remembrance Sunday commemorations taking place at Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Burscough war memorials details are set out below.

4.13 Ormskirk Remembrance Parade – Sunday 11 November 2018

The Parade will assemble outside St. Anne's RC Church at 9.30am for a short service led by Father Timney. Wreaths will be laid by attending Civic Dignitaries, MP and members of the Armed Forces.

The Parade will then move off onto Aughton Street with Police attendance and this year the Police have indicated that we will have the Mounted Police in attendance.

The route the Parade will take is left into Park Road and through the back of Coronation Park to the Memorial in Coronation Park for a short service led by Rev Pauline Bicknell from Ormskirk Parish Church. Officers will be putting in place a Road Closure Order under the Town Police Clauses Act to enable the Parade to take place.

The main service of Remembrance will take place inside the Parish Church. After the service the salute will be taken outside the entrance of the Parish Church where the Parade is dismissed.

The Council will be providing service booklets (last year the cost of these was £255.00) for the main service of Remembrance and refreshments, i.e. tea, coffee, juice and biscuits which will be served inside the New Church House.

4.14 Burscough Remembrance Parade – Sunday 11 November 2018

Burscough British Legion are the organisers of this Parade, the Mayor attends this Parade. This Parade takes place in the afternoon commencing at 13.45pm.

At the moment the British Legion are not accepting the Police recommendation of a road closure using the Town Police Clauses Act and a Private Traffic Management Company. Therefore the British Legion have applied to Lancashire County Council for a Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Order to close the A59. If this is the route they wish to take costs could be in the region of £1200 plus the costs of a Private Traffic Management Company which could be over £1,000 which will be expected to be met by the Organisers.

If Lancashire County Council do not support the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Order application, as in previous years the Council will put in place a road closure order under the Town Police Clauses Act.

Various meetings have already taken place with the Council, the Police and Rosie Cooper with regard to the organisation of the Parade.

#### 4.15 Skelmersdale Remembrance Parade – Sunday 11 November 2018

The Parade will assemble at Whitemoss Road/Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale at 10.20am. The Parade will march to the War Memorial in Sandy Lane for a service of Remembrance led by local Clergy at 11am.

At the service attending Civic Dignitaries, MP, members of the Armed Forces and the public will lay wreaths. A salute is taken outside the Memorial by the Deputy Mayor and other Civic Dignitaries.

The Parade then returns along Railway Road back to Liverpool Road where the Parade is dismissed.

Refreshments are provided at the Winchester Club on Liverpool Road and also at the Wardens Club on Blaguegate Lane. The Council pay a contribution for the refreshments, assisted by the Skelmersdale Veterans.

The Council also provide service sheets for the service at the War Memorial.

Officers are able to put in place a Road Closure Order under the Town Police Clauses Act to enable the Parade to take place. However, if the event organisers, as in the case of Burscough, wish to have a Road Traffic Regulation Order in place then this cost will be expected to be met by the Organisers themselves. Members should be aware that it has been indicated that Skelmersdale Veterans may face difficulty in meeting the full costs of the Order and the associated costs of a Private Traffic Management Company.

#### 4.16 HMS Ringtail – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018

A Service of Remembrance will take place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 10.45am. The Mayor will attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the Council.

#### 4.17 Poppy Wreaths

The Council purchase poppy wreaths to be used at the various services that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attend last year the cost of this was £102.00 for 6 wreaths.

### **5.0 FURTHER WORK**

5.1 Officers in the working group will continue to monitor the progress of the projects highlighted in Section 4 above, to ensure they are suitably delivered on time.

5.2 Further work will be done with the Communications Team to promote the programme of events and to ensure the community is aware of the commemorations taking place throughout the borough.

## **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

6.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

7.2 Currently, it is expected that the actions/projects outlined in Section 4 above will be delivered through existing 2018/2019 budgets.

## **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers.

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### **Background Documents**

None

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

None