

REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL - WAR MEMORIALS: WALL MOUNTED WWI TRIPTYCH, ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, WEST DRAYTON, UB7 7PT

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Sir Raymond Puddifoot MBE Cllr Richard Lewis
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Leader of the Council Central Services, Culture and Heritage
Officer Contact(s)	Lyn Summers / Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1. List of Memorials identified in 2017 for inclusion into the Gazetteer.

HEADLINES

Summary	Following the Council motion of 10 September 2020 relating to commemorating those who died in WWI and the plaque (Triptych) at St Martin's Church in West Drayton, officers have prepared a report to Cabinet to enable the full and accurate facts to be considered and appropriate action taken.
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the following Council objectives of: <i>Our People; Our Heritage and Civic Pride</i>
Financial Cost	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reprint of the Gazetteer Booklet – 1000 x A5 (26 pages) £550.86. 2. Design and printing of illustrated loose leaf inserts for the existing 'We Will Remember Them' books in Borough Libraries and schools – 100 x A4 £45. <p>Total: £595.86</p>
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	West Drayton / All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet agree to the:

1. Inclusion in the Gazetteer A5 Booklet of the St Martin's Church, WWI Triptych, the WWII Book of Remembrance and a further ten memorials identified following an update of the Imperial War Museum's Register of War Memorials in 2017. (NB: already included in the online version). *Appendix A*.
2. Re-print of the updated Gazetteer A5 Booklet for distribution to borough Libraries, schools, Councillors, local historians and churches.
3. Inclusion of an article in a forthcoming edition of Hillingdon People highlighting all twelve newly identified memorials and requesting help from residents in identifying any other memorials.
4. Design and printing of a 'loose leaf' insert page for the 'We Will Remember Them' book held in borough libraries and schools. To include any WWI memorials that meet the criteria for inclusion in the book from the recently updated list (Appendix A) and any that may be identified as a result of the Hillingdon People article.

Reasons for recommendations

The recommendations enable Cabinet to consider the Council Motion of the 10 September 2020:

That this Council recognises the sacrifice of all from this borough who died in the Great War and who are listed on the memorials and church plaques across the borough, by completing the Council's book of remembrance entitled "We Will Remember Them."

This to be accomplished by including in that commemorative book those men who died in that war and whose names are listed on the plaque in St Martin's Church, West Drayton. This to be achieved by way of an addendum to the book of remembrance which would then be printed and publicised.

These local men, who fought and died for their country, have, up to now been forgotten by this Council as this plaque which records their names has been completely omitted from the only book published by Hillingdon Council to remember its war dead from the Great War.

We, the living, can correct that and make true the words, "Lest We Forget."

Given the current Conservative Administration's enviable record of protecting and promoting heritage in Hillingdon, particularly military history, Council request that this matter be referred to the Cabinet to enable full and accurate facts to be considered and appropriate action taken."

Alternative options considered / risk management

Consideration was given to rebinding the 'We Will Remember Them' books and inserting extra pages but the cost of this proved to be prohibitive. Additionally, as other war memorials are also being identified it would not be possible to do this on a continuous basis

Democratic compliance / previous authority

This report to Cabinet fulfils the requirement of the motion approved by Council on 10 September 2020.

Policy Overview Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In February 2010, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) expressed concern at recent cases of damage to national war memorials through neglect or deliberate vandalism, a matter of particular concern at a time when there was heightened public sensitivity to sacrifices being made by the country's armed forces. The DCLG emphasised the importance of ensuring that memorials are protected and maintained to a high standard and reminded Local Authorities that they should play a key role in drawing up policies for the protection of these heritage assets.

The Planning Specialists Team were tasked with undertaking a project on the Borough's war memorials and engaged a research volunteer to carry out the work with the intention of highlighting the importance of memorials and their location in the Borough.

The research was undertaken over a period of six months with the Imperial War Museum register being used as the baseline for information **. Further detail was gathered through work with the local archives team and from books published by writer and local historian Tanya Britton.

*** It should be noted that, as a result of this research, several Imperial War Museum (IWM) records were found to be either incomplete, incorrect and/or duplicated. All incidents were reported to the IWM's record office for resolution.*

Public consultation was also carried out via an article in Hillingdon People which encouraged residents to come forward with information on any less known and/or unusual memorials (such as those in Appendix A). However, no responses were received.

The research resulted in seventy-five memorials being recorded in the Borough. Twenty-one of those were publicly accessible, for example town centre cenotaphs or graveyard crosses, whilst others took the form of windows, wall tablets or other monuments in churches. Additionally, there were also associations, sports clubs and private companies who had their

own memorials to staff or members (both military and civilian) killed in war, such as Uxbridge District Council, Ruislip NatWest Bank, Northwood Post Office, Bishopshalt School, Uxbridge Cricket Club, the Gramophone Company in Hayes, and the Bells United Asbestos Company, Harefield. The Youth of Ruislip, twenty of whom were formerly Scouts, are remembered in an open-air chapel in Ruislip Woods.

Following the conclusion of the research, all the information that had been recorded was uploaded onto the online Gazetteer and a hard copy A5 booklet of the same was published and distributed, by way of promotion, to all Councillors, borough Libraries, Churches and Schools, as well as to owners of Borough memorials that were now on record. Further revisions were made in 2011 and in 2012.

In 2014, the Council undertook to further commemorate those local men who had fought and died for their country during WWI and, using the information provided in the Gazetteer, the 'We Will Remember Them' Book was produced for the sole purpose of putting into print the names of those who were commemorated on the WWI war memorials around the Borough.

It is true that, the subject of this Council Motion, the Roll of Honour (a closed wall mounted WWI Triptych) located at St Martin's Church, West Drayton, was omitted from both the Hillingdon War Memorials Gazetteer and the 'We Will Remember Them' Book. However, this was entirely due to there being no knowledge of the memorial's existence and not, as has been suggested, because those that had died had been forgotten.

Whilst the omission of this particular memorial was identified by a local historian very soon after the 'We Will Remember Them' book was published it should be noted that the Gazetteer had been fully accessible online since the Autumn of 2010 and that, in the four years between the two commemorative publications being produced, no-one had come forward to highlight the WWI Triptych as missing. Therefore, the 'We Will Remember Them' book was published in the knowledge that it was as complete as it could be at that time.

Once the Council were made aware of the omission, the WWI Triptych and additional information regarding a WWII Book of Remembrance, located in the same Church, were uploaded as soon as possible onto the online version of the Gazetteer.

This has also been the case for the other ten memorials (Appendix A) that came to light as a direct result of the Imperial War Museum updating the War Memorials Register in late 2017.

It is clearly of great importance to commemorate and remember the sacrifice of those who have fought and lost their lives for their country. War Memorials are a familiar and cherished part of the townscape of the borough and a poignant reminder of all those local people who lost their lives in two World Wars and other armed conflicts.

The Council takes great pride in the protection and promotion of Hillingdon's heritage and seeks to ensure that the memorials under its guardianship are looked after for future generations to come.

A work programme of cleaning and maintenance has been in place since 2008 and, in 2017, as a result of a full tender process, the Council engaged Conservation accredited contractors

(who are also conservators for National Trust, English Heritage and Church Conservation Trust) to undertake annual condition reports and take on the care and maintenance of its memorials in the long term. This work has included the re-cutting of inscribed names where they have been eroded by weather, re-pointing, repairing of cracks and chips, replacement of matching stone where areas have been broken as well as much larger and recent pieces of work such as the total replacement of the crazy paved areas at the Polish Air Force Memorial and the full refurbishment of the Christ on the Cross figure on the Hayes War Memorial.

Financial Implications

Funding of £595.86 to be sought from HIP Heritage and Civic Pride budget.

RESIDENT BENEFIT AND CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The updating and provision of information on War Memorials will result in a more comprehensive record, will be welcomed by Hillingdon's residents and lead to a greater awareness and appreciation of war memorials in the Borough.

Consultation carried out or required

Liaison with Reverend Barrie from St Martin's Church and John Davies, local historian, to ensure that the description detail for the WWI Triptych which will be included on the illustrated loose leaf insert page for the 'We Will Remember Them' Book is correct.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and concurs with the Financial Implications set out above, noting that this expenditure can be funded from the HIP budget.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report

Comments from other relevant service areas

The Planning Specialist Team supports the following recommendations:

- reprinting of the Gazetteer A5 Booklet including the proposed additions to ensure consistency between the Imperial and Borough War Memorial Registers.

- creation of an illustrated loose leaf insert page for the 'We Will Remember Them' books in Borough libraries and schools.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Minutes – 10 September 2020

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF TEN ADDITIONAL ENTRIES IN THE HILLINGDON MEMORIALS ONLINE GAZETTEER FOLLOWING AN UPDATE TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NATIONAL WAR MEMORIALS REGISTER in 2017.

MEMORIAL	NOTES
1. Eastcote War Memorial – Original Bronze Plaques	Stored for safe keeping at the Royal British Legion Hall, Southbourne Gardens.
2. Imperial College Sports Ground, Sipson Lane	Land acquired by Imperial College as a war memorial, and dedicated in 1936
3. Nestle War Memorial bearing the names of factory workers who died in the two World Wars.	Temporarily removed from the factory for storage in Nestle’s archives, pending re-instatement as part of the new residential development scheme.
4. St. John the Baptist Church, Royal Lane, Hillingdon	The altar bears the names of three members of a family who were killed in WWI
5. Nos. 107-125 Park Avenue, Ruislip	Five pairs of semi-detached houses built by Haig Homes to commemorate those killed in WWII.
6. Ruislip British Legion, High Street, Ruislip	WWII Book of Remembrance
7. RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip	‘Post Office Rifles’ Plaque - relocated from Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill
8. RAF Northolt, West End Road, Ruislip	‘Letter from Home’ Statue - relocated from Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill
9. Harmondsworth War Memorial Recreation Ground, Sipson Way	Land acquired as a war memorial and dedicated in 1935
10. St. Matthew’s Church. Yiewsley	WWII Roll of Honour - now kept in the Local Studies Library, High Street, Uxbridge.