

BROMSGROVE MONUMENT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Roger Hollingworth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering
Wards Affected	St Johns

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet consideration of a proposal to contribute funds from balances to support the provision of a Monument to the services on the Council owned land in Crown Close, next to Amphlett Hall, in partnership with the Bromsgrove Armed Forces Memorial Fund. Members approved in 2010 the provision of the monument subject to planning applications and legal considerations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to :

- 2.1 Recommend to Council the release from balances of up to £20k as the Council's contribution towards the cost of the monument.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The cost of the monument would be approximately £45k. It is anticipated that the majority of these funds can be met from the revenue raised by the charity. The contribution from the Council will be a maximum of £20k and it is proposed that these funds are released from balances. Any additional funds raised by the charity will be utilised to provide for future maintenance of the monument which will be undertaken by the Council.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The land on which the monument would be sited is owned by the Council as part of the title for Amphlett Hall. It is anticipated that the charity will be granted a licence to enter onto the land and construct the monument. The land will remain in the Council's ownership and on the expiry of the licence the monument itself will be given to the Council.
- 3.3 As explained below at 3.6 and 3.7, the land is subject to a covenant in favour of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, but it is anticipated that obtaining the Commissioner's release from the covenant is unlikely to

present any significant legal problems based on the experience of the Council in dealing with the Burma Star Memorial.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.4 In April 2011 a report was presented to Members with a proposal to agree to the development of a Monument on the open space in Crown Close. Whilst there are 33 memorials around the town they are often on private sites or inside buildings and currently there is no dedicated monument, in a public open space, to all the services. The charitable organisation "Bromsgrove Armed Forces War Memorial Fund" has been established with the aim to raise funds to construct the monument.
- 3.5 In recognition of the lack of such a monument in the town it is proposed that the Council provide a contribution towards the cost of the project and that the remainder be financed by the charitable funds raised. Any surplus funds will be retained by the Council to provide for maintenance of the monument in future years.
- 3.6 The land was purchased in 1899 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and the 1899 Conveyance imposed a covenant that the land would be used as "an open space and public recreation ground and for no other purpose whatever except with the previous consent in writing of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners".
- 3.7 There is already a war memorial on part of the open land owned by the Council. The Burma Star Memorial which was erected around 1982. It is therefore anticipated that there will not be an issue in gaining agreement to build this monument however officers will liaise with the Commissioners to ensure that formal approval is secured. The new monument would be owned and maintained by the Council.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the grounds maintenance of the monument is undertaken within the Council and this will be funded from the charitable funds raised.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.9 None as a direct result of this report

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The project requires approval of the construction from the Commissioners. Officers will manage the procurement and delivery of the project to ensure it is within the financial contribution from the Council and appropriate construction quality is followed.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet report – 6th April 2011
Cabinet report - 2nd June 2010

AUTHORS OF REPORT

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