

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY PANEL B</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>27 JUNE 2019</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WAR MEMORIALS</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is as an introduction to war memorials in Ashfield, following the approval of the topic to the Scrutiny Workplan 2019/20. This report aims to provide Scrutiny Panel B Members with a background on war memorials, including war memorials identified for work in Ashfield and guidance from the War Memorials Trust on maintenance and preservation.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Panel Members are recommended to:

- Note the information contained in this report
- Agree terms of reference for the review
- Arrange an informal working group to progress the review in between formal Scrutiny Panel B meetings

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

War memorials was added as a topic for review to the Scrutiny Workplan 2019/20 in June 2019.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review.

### **Detailed Information**

#### **Suggested Review Terms of Reference**

In consideration of this topic, Scrutiny Panel B Members have indicated that the following areas could benefit from scrutiny involvement and could form the review terms of reference:

- Resident involvement
- War memorial cleaning and preservation
- A comprehensive protocol for war memorials in Ashfield
- Events surrounding war memorials
- Future planning

Any additional lines of enquiry concerning war memorials will be identified and discussed as part of the review process.

## **What is a War Memorial?**

War memorials exist in many different forms, but all exist as an object to preserve the memory of a conflict or war and those involved in it. Typically, a war memorial takes the form of a plaque, monument, or sculpture, but can also include any tangible object that has been erected or dedicated to commemorate. Generally, war memorials are erected by local communities and groups associated with those remembered. War memorials act as historical touchstones, linking the past and the present as focal points for acknowledging and remembering the sacrifice of those that served, fought, and died in conflict, especially on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday.

## **Origins of War Memorials**

Today, it is estimated that there are around 100,000 war memorials throughout Britain, built as symbols of commemoration for war dead. The notion of commemorating those lost in war developed significantly towards the end of the nineteenth century. Before then, war memorials were few in number, typically dedicated to individuals or specific regiments, and seen as celebratory objects. The aftermath of the First World War became the “great age” of memorial building, as thousands were erected across Britain. The effects of the First World War were immensely far-reaching, and in response came a nation-wide drive for commemoration. This drive for commemoration was compounded by a ban on repatriation of the dead, as over 700,000 Britons lost their lives, and it became a logistical impossibility to transport numbers so high.

Although the Second World War saw fewer military losses, local communities continued the drive for commemoration, as new memorials were constructed and many names were added to those erected after the First World War. In the time since the end of the Second World War, names have been continually added to memorials in remembrance of those lost in more recent conflicts.

## **Priority War Memorials**

Four of Ashfield’s war memorials have been identified as high priority for restoration works due to the extent of work needed. The works for each memorial identified below are repairs/maintenance, meaning Listed Building Consent is not required.

### Titchfield Park War Memorial, Hucknall, NG15 7LU

- Bronze staining
- Surface damage to stone
- Repointing

### Kingsway Old Cemetery War Memorial, Kirkby – in – Ashfield, NG17 7FJ

- Damage to wall and railings

- Loss of mortar
- Cracks to memorial
- Step readjustment
- Lettering reinstatement

#### Sutton Cemetery War Memorial, Sutton – in – Ashfield, NG17 2EL

- Staining
- Loss of lead
- Crack to marble
- Base repairs
- Remove vegetation
- Lettering repairs

#### Huthwaite Cemetery War Memorial, Huthwaite, NG17 2NQ

- Stone discolouration
- Repointing
- Works to the plaques, cross, and wreath

### **Maintaining War Memorials**

As set out in a help sheet produced by the War Memorials Trust, there are certain guidelines and requirements that must be adhered to when looking after war memorials.<sup>1</sup> The War Memorials trust also produced the leaflet *Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials* to provide guidance on how to preserve war memorials and identify repair needs.<sup>2</sup>

#### Look

Visiting a memorial, taking photographs, and maintaining an accurate record is important. This information can form the basis of any maintenance/restoration plan, and can help monitor any damage to the memorial.

#### Investigation

All war memorials have a history. Taking history into account is vital when managing a memorial. Details of how a memorial was erected, and by whom, can answer any ownership issues. Information on how names have been identified can help anticipate any future requests for names to be added. Details of the materials used in a memorial's construction is also vital for any maintenance work.

#### Legal Requirements

Some war memorials are listed and are subsequently affected by listed building consent. Depending on the location of the war memorial, and its history, other issues may have to be taken into consideration such as planning, church facilities, etc. Any historical research will assist in understanding requirements surrounding war memorials.

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<sup>1</sup> Looking after your war memorial, *War Memorials Trust*, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials, *War Memorials Trust*, 2006.

## Assess

When assessing war memorials, two main questions need to be considered:

- Is the memorial in good condition?

Action may need to be taken to rectify any problems identified.

- Is the memorial safe?

Making sure a war memorial is secure is vitally important. Theft of metals can be common, as well as vandalism or graffiti.

## Maintain

A maintenance programme is important to ensure war memorials are preserved. Identifying issues early prevents large restoration projects through less intrusive and less damaging preventative work.

A maintenance plan could just mean an annual visit to the war memorial in question, taking photographs and carrying out a brief condition survey. Again, the objective of a maintenance plan is to identify problems early to make them easier to deal with.

## Conserve

It is inevitable that work will be required to conserve war memorials. Any work should be carried out should be done so by qualified professionals, and in line with current best conservation practice.

## Community Involvement

It is important for community involvement to be sought regarding war memorials. Not only are the memorials of huge sentimental value to many, the community can also help monitor and report any issues relating to war memorials, ensuring those responsible for the memorial can take preventative measures.

Consideration should be given to:

- Advice on how local communities can be involved
- Involving local communities in information gathering
- Ensuring local communities are involved and informed of any changes or issues relating to war memorials
- Planning community events

## **Wreaths and War Memorials**

In addition to other help sheets regarding war memorials published by the War Memorials Trust, *Wreaths and War Memorials* provides guidance on the laying of wreaths and personal tributes.<sup>3</sup> The laying of wreaths is an important part of most Remembrance services. As a personal tribute, wreaths allow individuals and organisations to pay their respects to those commemorated. Management of wreaths laid can be a sensitive issue, and consideration should be given to ensure minimal distress is caused.

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<sup>3</sup> Wreaths and War Memorials, *War Memorials Trust*, 2017.

Those responsible for managing and maintaining war memorials must consider the following:

- When to remove tribute wreaths
- How to inform those concerned of wreath removal
- Deterioration of wreaths
- Staining of a war memorial from a wreath or any metal on them
- Maintaining consultation with local communities and other interested parties
- The necessity and/or desirability for wreath holders

### **Next Steps**

- Review the information collected
- Request any further information required to progress the review
- Consider the value of a site visit(s)
- Consider strategic direction for war memorials going forward

### **Implications**

#### **Corporate Plan:**

This proposed scrutiny review of war memorials is reflected in the Corporate Plan priority areas of;

- Place and Economic Growth
- Communities and Growth

This includes recognising, promoting and enhancing our cultural and historical heritage, engaging communities and a cleaner environment.

#### **Legal:**

Any legal implications relating to war memorials will be considered and addressed as part of the review process.

#### **Finance:**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None at this stage.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None at this stage.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None.

**Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to maintain and preserve Ashfield's war memorials is a significant reputational risk for ADC.	Ensuring that all processes for the maintenance and preservation of war memorials are communicated to all interested and involved parties.

**Human Resources:**

There are no HR implications identified in this report.

**Equalities:**

There are no equality implications identified in this report.

**Other Implications:**

None.

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.

**Background Papers**

- Looking after your war memorial, *War Memorials Trust*, 2017.
- Advice on Maintenance of War Memorials, *War Memorials Trust*, 2006.
- Wreaths and War Memorials, *War Memorials Trust*, 2017.

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