

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Trustee Committee

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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**WARD(S):** All wards

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **WAR MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE**

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to note information regarding the management and maintenance of publicly accessible War Memorials in Slough and the allocation of funds to start a 'pot' towards future maintenance and repair as required.

2. **Recommendations**

That the current arrangements for the management and maintenance of War Memorials and the allocation of funds to maintain and repair them in future be noted.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Whilst the Council's Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities are relevant the Committee's primary duties are to consider the best interests of the Trust and not the Council's strategic priorities. If there is a conflict between the best interests of the Trust and those of the Council, the interests of the Trust must prevail.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Whilst the Council's Five Year Plan outcomes are relevant, the Committee's primary duties are to consider the best interests of the Trust and not the Council's strategic priorities. If there is a conflict between the best interests of the Trust and those of the Council, the interests of the Trust must prevail.

Outcome 3 of the Five Year Plan 2019-24 states that "Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay".

War memorials are a traditional part of the town's landscape and cultural heritage. They contribute towards the town's sense of community.

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) **Financial**

The Committee is responsible for war memorials at Baylis Park and Langley Memorial Ground therefore there is a potential financial liability for maintenance and repairs at these locations. Other war memorials fall outside of any particular responsibility but still need regular maintenance and occasional repairs. It is often difficult to find an appropriate 'owner' of these should spend be required.

##### (b) **Risk Management**

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
No management or maintenance	Memorials may fall into a state of disrepair	None	High	None

##### (c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act implications in regard to the proposed project.

The Trustees are obliged to maintain, protect and repair the War Memorial Garden at Baylis Park and Langley Memorial Ground as laid out. The Trust deeds also oblige the Trustees to observe and perform the covenants affecting the trust land set out in the Trust Deeds and the Trustees must therefore ensure that the terms of those covenants are not breached and that provision is made in the Trust's finances for any costs associated with such covenants.

##### (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The Langley Memorial Ground and Baylis War Memorial Garden are open and free to all to use and enjoy. The other open air war memorials in Slough are also freely accessible to all. There are no equalities issues identified with continued maintenance and management of these areas.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Trustees had previously asked for a report on the funds for management and maintenance of war memorials in Slough.
- 5.2 There are six publicly accessible war memorials in Slough located in Langley Memorial Ground, Baylis Park War Memorial Garden, Cippenham Village Green/Pond, Uxbridge Road, St Mary's Church, Slough and Slough High Street.
- 5.3 Only Langley Memorial Ground and Baylis War Memorial Garden are managed by the trust and potentially have funding to maintain their war memorials.

- 5.4 Memorials at Cippenham Village Green/Pond and Uxbridge Road do not have official or formal management arrangements or funding for their maintenance.
- 5.5 These memorials with the exception of Slough High Street were originally funded and erected by public subscription a century ago after the First World War. All have subsequently been altered to list the fallen from the Second World War and other conflicts. Only Langley and Baylis have allocated funds to keep and maintain them. Traditionally the maintenance of memorials in public land has fallen to Parks and works when required are carried out using budgets allocated to parks maintenance.
- 5.6 The new memorial in Slough High Street and that at St Mary's Church have not previously been included in this arrangement and installation/repairs to date have been met from other budgets.
- 5.7 Parks officers liaise with The Royal British Legion to ensure that memorials are kept to a good standard and are prepared for Remembrance Sunday each year.
- 5.8 The DSO carries out routine tidying and maintenance to the surrounding areas. Parks officers arrange repairs to memorials when required.
- 5.9 At the last Trustee Committee meeting members for Cippenham Green and Chalvey Ward agreed to allocate £6000 from CIF allocations to start a 'pot' for future maintenance of war memorials in Slough hoping that this amount may grow in future to help towards their upkeep independent of other budgets. Clarification would be sought about whether the two £3k allocated could be treated as the beginning of a 'trust' for each of those two memorials, which would be held by the Trustee Committee to join the other memorials that had formal Trust arrangements in place.
- 5.10 The finance team are working through the capital programme and when this has been agreed then we will be in a position to state how an agreed budget can be used for the memorials.

## 6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This matter has not been considered by other committees.

## 7. **Conclusion**

- 7.1 All publicly accessible war memorials in Slough are managed and maintained by Slough Borough Council to the best possible standard within budgetary restraints. There is currently no allocated budget for management or maintenance of memorials. The Council's capital programme is under review and once completed further consideration can be given to this issue. Trustees may be liable for repairs to memorials at Langley Memorial Ground and Baylis Park Memorial Garden.

## 8. **Background Papers**

None