

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Trustee Committee

DATE: 24th January 2022

SUBJECT: War Memorial Maintenance

CHIEF OFFICER: Richard West, Executive Director Place and Community

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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

2. **Recommendations**

That the current arrangements and costs for the management and maintenance of War Memorials in Slough are noted.

Commissioner Review

Trustees may wish to set up a charity for future memorial upkeep.

This has proved successful elsewhere and we can use the Commissioner's experience of this to explore the matter further. If the Committee agrees, this could be the subject of a future report.

The Committee may also consider whether funds could be sought from The War Memorials Trust for future upkeep and repair.

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 2020-25 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 the war memorials at Baylis Park and Langley Memorial Ground therefore there is a financial liability for maintenance and repairs at these locations.

At 31.03.21 the War Memorial Garden at Baylis Park had reserves of £86,125 and the Langley War Memorial Ground £15,636.

(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	Explore funding for this and agree a programme of maintenance and repair

(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 have asked for a report on the costs of management and maintenance of war memorials in Slough.
- 5.2 There are seven publicly accessible war memorials in Slough located in Langley Memorial Ground, Baylis Park War Memorial Garden, Cippenham Village Green/Pond, St Peter's, Chalvey, Uxbridge Road, St Mary's Church, Slough and Slough High Street.
- 5.3 Only Langley Memorial Ground and Baylis War Memorial Garden are owned by the trust and have funds 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 the council and works when required are carried out using budgets allocated.
- 5.6 The War Memorials Trust- a charity that was set up to protect Britain's war memorials offers grants towards restoration of memorials where required. This should be considered if future works are required to repair the fabric of memorials.
- 5.7 Trustees have previously suggested setting up a maintenance and repair fund. Officers will continue to work towards setting up and seek sources of funding to establish this.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 The DSO carries out routine tidying and maintenance to the surrounding areas where in public areas. The cost of maintaining the gardens surrounding the memorials has traditionally been incorporated into the grounds maintenance schedule. Officers arrange repairs to memorials when required. The tables appended show costs to maintain the gardens and memorials recently.

Some of the recent memorial maintenance was carried out to present the memorials at their best for specific anniversaries such as that of one hundred years since the end of World War One. There has been no more recent maintenance to the memorials apart from grounds maintenance.

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 no allocated budget for management or maintenance of memorials, but works are carried out using departmental funds for grounds maintenance and events. Future restoration works if required could be part funded by grant from the War Memorials Trust.

Trustees are liable for repairs and maintenance to memorials at Langley Memorial Ground and Baylis Park Memorial Garden.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Costs to maintain memorial gardens

Appendix 2 - Costs of recent memorial maintenance for centenaries

9. **Background Papers**

None

Appendix 1. Costs to maintain memorial gardens

Annual costs for grounds maintenance summary

Location	Work Carried Out	Cost £
Baylis WM Garden	Grounds maintenance operations	3,860
Langley WM	Grounds maintenance operations	612
St Peter's Church, Chalvey WM	N/A	0
Cippenham Village WM	Grounds maintenance operations	807
St Mary's Church, Slough	N/A	0
Slough Town Centre	N/A	0
Uxbridge Road	Grounds maintenance operations	204

Appendix 2. Costs of recent memorial maintenance for centenaries

Specific costs of recent maintenance for 2018 centenary.

Location	Work Carried Out	Cost £	Date
Baylis WM Garden	Clean war memorial and surrounding area, steam clean.	540	October 2018
Langley WM	Clean war memorial and surrounding area, Steam clean. Lime Pointing Application of Biocide Sacrificial micro crystalline hard wax covering	2022	July 2018
St Peter's Church, Chalvey WM	Clean war memorial and surrounding area, Steam clean. Lime Pointing Application of Biocide Sacrificial micro crystalline hard wax covering	1,752	July 2018
Cippenham Village WM	Clean war memorial and surrounding area, Steam clean. Application of Biocide Sacrificial micro crystalline hard wax covering 2 replacement stone pillars	1,400 800	July 2018
St Mary's Slough	Clean war memorial and surrounding area, Steam clean. Lime Pointing Application of Biocide Sacrificial micro crystalline hard wax covering	2,394	July 2018
Slough Town Centre	None required		
Uxbridge Road	None required		