



Haverhill Area Working Party 17 April 2014

Commemoration to those who fell in WW1

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation

- 1.1 This report provides the Haverhill Working Party with a summary of known events taking place to commemorate WW1. It also sets out a proposal initially put forward by Councillor Gordon Cox to commemorate WW1 by installing a sundial and associated landscaping works in East Town Park.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Working Party:
- (1) notes the currently known activities taking place both nationally and more locally in the Borough to commemorate World War I; and
 - (2) supports the initiative put forward by Councillor Cox to commemorate WW1 locally, in East Town Park, Haverhill, by installing a sundial and carrying out some associated landscape enhancements, as detailed in Section 4.2.4 of Report E342; and
 - (3) subject to (2) above, the project be provided in accordance with the estimated costings and budgets detailed in Section 9 of Report E342.

Contact details

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3. Strategic priorities

The recommendation meets the following Strategic Priority, as contained within the West Suffolk Strategic Plan:-

(ii) Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active.

4. Key issues

Events

4.1 Central Government initiatives

4.1.1 Central Government has introduced an initiative to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I by providing thousands of school children with the opportunity to visit the Great War battlefields.

4.1.2 14-18 NOW is a major cultural programme taking place across the United Kingdom to mark the centenary of the First World War. The programme centres around three key moments during the four year war:

- 4 August 2014: Anniversary of the Declaration of War.
- July 2016: Start of the Battle of the Somme.
- November 2018: Centenary of the Armistice.

For each of these key dates, 14-18 NOW will present a season of commissioned events around the UK over 6 to 8 weeks.

4.2 Local Initiatives within the Borough for 2014

4.2.1 Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds

In Bury St Edmunds the Parks Service has sown a 'Field of Poppies' in the Abbey Gardens. The seeds were sown on the Eastern embankment of the River Lark and should provide a sea of red poppies in mid-summer.

4.2.2 Moyse's Hall, Bury St Edmunds

- The Friends of Moyse's Hall have been liaising with local history groups, and these groups will be putting on a small (probably 2D) exhibitions hosted by the Museum.
- Nigel Apperly has recently published his Grandfather's memoirs as a Lewis gunner and will be coming in to give a talk.
- Four NVQ students associated with the Borough's Heritage service will be working on a "Pot-Luck" WW1 game to roll out for 2015. This is a new way of interpreting our collections and presenting to the public.
- Throughout the course of the year the museum will be bringing out single items from the collections that are pertinent to the commemorations for display.
- Ron Murrell will be provide two new Lectures pertinent to WW1.

4.2.3 Haverhill In Bloom

At its meeting in March 2014, the Haverhill in Bloom agreed to:

- try and progress a scheme of sowing poppy seeds donated by Haverhill Town Council on the embankments either side of southern by-pass between Spirit of Enterprise roundabout and Burton End/ Hazel Stub roundabout.
- They also agreed to investigate the possibility of mounting a large poppy cut-out on Spirit of Enterprise sculpture facing Cambridge direction.

4.2.4 East Town Park, Haverhill

Between the car park and the visitor centre there is a former butterfly garden area. To the back of the garden area is an attractive flint wall. This is quite a prominent location in the park and the main thoroughfare between the car park and centre.

It is proposed that the former butterfly garden area be revamped and restocked with a range of flowering plants including a ribbon of red ornamental poppies. Within the ribbon of poppies a sundial will be installed. The sundial would be mounted on an attractive rustic stone column (similar to the piece of stone we installed at Jubilee gardens), the sundial top will be inscribed to commemorate WW1 and include the CB9 logo (see attached as **Appendix 1** an example of the proposed sundial top).

On either side of the proposed sundial will be two stone tablets with poems reflecting the hardship levied against those fighting on the battlefields.

Appendix 2 shows the general location of the proposed garden and the proposed planting plan.

The First World War began on 28 July 1914 but Britain did not declare war on Germany until the 4 Aug 1914. We could organise an unveiling ceremony on either date.

5. Other options considered

5.1 No other options have been considered in connection with this proposal.

6. Community impact

6.1 Crime and disorder impact

6.1.1 There is no obvious crime and disorder impact associated with this initiative.

7.2 Diversity and equality

7.2.1 There are no obvious diversity or equality issues to be considered as part of this initiative.

7.3 Sustainability impact

7.3.1 There are no obvious negative sustainability impacts concerning this initiative. Indeed the planting of more bee and butterfly friendly plants should be seen as a positive in this regard.

8. Consultation

8.1 Councillor Cox and Councillor Brown as two of the Ward Members for the area are very keen to see this initiative taken place. Subject to the Working Party's support, Councillor Sarah Stamp as Portfolio Holder for the Parks Service is agreeable to the scheme going ahead.

9. Financial implications

9.1 The estimated cost of the project is indicated in the table below:

Stone sundial base (prepared & installed)	£1,200
Brass style top	£200
Inscribed stone tablets	£1,200
New plants	£300
Repairs to flint wall	£1,100
Estimated total	£4,000

9.2 Councillor Brown has agreed to contribute £1,500 from his County Council Locality budget. Subject to it meeting the agreed criteria, Borough Councillors may like to contribute to the initiative. As has been the case in the funding of the poppy seed area in Abbey Gardens, the Borough Council will contribute a sum from its existing parks revenue budget.

9.3 There are currently no new resource implications to be considered as part of this report.

10. Risk/opportunity assessment

Risk Assessment (*potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives*)

Risk area	Inherent level of Risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual Risk (after controls)
Objection to a WW1commemoration.	Medium	Having consulted in advance of the initiative happening we will hopefully have addressed any concerns.	Low

11. Legal and policy implications

11.1 There are no obvious legal implications necessitating a legal opinion on what is being proposed.

12. Ward affected

12.1 Haverhill East

13. Background papers

13.1 None

14. Documents attached

14.1 Appendix 1: Example of the proposed sundial top

Appendix 2: General location of the proposed garden and the proposed planting plan

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APPENDIX 1

Example of a sundial top – which could be personalised with the CB9 logo



APPENDIX 2

Photo of current area:



Appendix 2 Cont.

Sketch of proposed planting scheme:



