

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Report by Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Community Participation Committee: 18 March 2009**

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**Subject: War Memorials – West Dunbartonshire**

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the current condition of the War Memorials within West Dunbartonshire and outline remedial work which requires to be undertaken.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1** The Grounds Maintenance Section undertakes an annual condition survey of West Dunbartonshire Council's War Memorials in conjunction with independent monumental sculptors.
- 2.2** Stone cleaning and basic repairs such as pointing of joints and replacement of missing lettering are undertaken annually prior to November Remembrance Day Services.

## **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Appendix A of this report provides a summary of each of the 16 memorials within the authority and identifies remedial action required. The appendix shows that as at February 2009, 2 memorials require remedial work and 2 are being updated with names of deceased.
- 3.2** The two memorials which require refurbishment are at Kilmaronock, and Christie Park.
- 3.2.1** Kilmaronock - The memorial base requires extensive pointing, the lettering on nameplates requires to be painted and the entire memorial requires specialist cleaning. No action is planned at present pending consideration by the local Community Council to relocate memorial.
- 3.2.2** Christie Park Cenotaph - Christie Park Cenotaph is constructed mainly of sandstone with slate panels inlaid. The sandstone has stood up relatively well to the effects of weathering however the slate panels have not fared so well and display signs of deterioration commensurate with the age of the monument. The slate panels also suffer from chips and scrapes caused by vandalism.

The slate panels require to be buffed off before any work to re-gild the lettering can commence. Unfortunately the lettering has become so shallow

in many places that the buffing process would render much of the lettering illegible. The re-cutting of lettering in situ is not a viable proposition due to the technical difficulties and the degree of danger involved. The removal of plaques for rework is also not practical because of the danger of breakage would be impossible to avoid. For these reasons it is recommended that the slate panels are removed and replaced with light grey granite panels however agreement for this requires to be obtained from Historic Scotland.

The memorial also requires extensive pointing and specialist cleaning and the total value of the work is estimated at £100,000.

Proposed refurbishment of this memorial is included within a funding application currently being developed in partnership with Greenlight Environmental Ltd. for the upgrading of the Christie Park Memorial.

**3.3** The Council is presently undertaking work to update two memorials in Clydebank.

**3.3.1** The names of victims of Clydebank Blitz are being added to the War Memorial in Old Dalnottar Cemetery. This work is underway and should be completed within the next 4 weeks.

**3.3.2** It is planned to add the names of the deceased service personnel from Clydebank to the existing War Memorial at Clydebank Town Hall. This work is presently in the planning stages and discussions are ongoing with Historic Scotland in this regard.

**4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** None

**5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** The cost of remedial work to Kilmaronock and Christie Park memorials is estimated at £5,000 and £100,000 respectively. No funding source has yet been identified for the necessary works at either of these memorials.

**6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** There are no risks associated with this report.

**7. Conclusions**

**7.1** Most of the authority's memorials are in good condition given their age and the regular routine maintenance and cleaning carried out.

Identified work remains outstanding on two memorials – Kilmaronock and Christie Park Cenotaph.

## **8. Recommendations**

### **8.1 Members are invited to note progress in implementation of a programme of remedial works to memorials within West Dunbartonshire.**

**Elaine Melrose**

**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Date: 25 February 2009**

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**Appendix:** Appendix A

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All