

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Cultural Sub-Committee: 9 September 2008

Subject: Creation of a Memorial Wall in Clydebank

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to update Members on proposals for the creation of a Memorial Wall in Clydebank to commemorate service personnel who lost their lives during active service with the armed forces and civilian victims of the Clydebank Blitz.

2. Background

- 2.1** In 1914 Clydebank Town Council agreed to display a Roll of Honour in relation to the First World War however unfortunately this has never been done and there is therefore no formal war memorial in Clydebank which includes the names of those local service men and women who lost their lives whilst serving their country.
- 2.2** At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 20 December 2006 a motion was considered and passed that the Council recognised the desire of descendants and relatives to have a permanent record of the names and other details of their loved ones who died serving as part of the armed services.
- 2.3** A report was submitted to the Council meeting of 28 February 2007 by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environment) outlining proposals for the creation of a Memorial Wall.
- 2.4** A further report was submitted by the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services) to the Council Meeting of 30 May 2007.

The Council agreed:

- (a) to note that the timescale for an official opening on Veterans Day, 27 June 2007, would not be achieved;
- (b) that a ceremony of dedication of the site be held on Veterans Day 2007 with commemoration events held annually thereafter;
- (c) that the Memorial Wall Working Group be reconvened with Provost Agnew as Chair;

- (d) that the membership of the Working Group be widened, for particular meetings, as it considered appropriate; and
- (e) that the Working Group should discuss and agree arrangements for the creation of the Memorial Wall and dedication/commemoration events and that its proposals be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

2.5 An update report outlining the progress of the working group was submitted to the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee on 20 March 2008.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The working group has met on numerous occasions throughout the last year (most recently on Wednesday 18 June 2008) and has progressed a number of issues associated with the creation of a memorial wall as follows:

- a) Work to collate information on details of service personnel eligible for inclusion on the Memorial Wall has largely been completed with information being gathered from a number of sources including a public consultation exercise to collate and validate data. There are however issues in terms of confirming the accuracy of some of the information and in preventing duplications and it has to be accepted that there may be further entries to be added in future if new information becomes available or if other local servicemen and women lose their lives in current or future conflicts. The list of names currently totals 1826 entries.
- b) The existing War memorial at Clydebank Town Hall was identified as the most appropriate site in Clydebank at which to develop a memorial wall.
- c) Several design mock-ups of how a memorial wall on the existing Clydebank Town Hall premises may look have been prepared and consultation has taken place in this regard with Mr Dara Parsons, Inspector of Historic Buildings with Historic Scotland.
- d) Following most recent discussions with Historic Scotland it was advised that the number of names which required to be included was too great to enable them all to be included on the town hall without impacting upon the aesthetics of the building.
- e) As a result, the Working Group has developed a revised proposal to split the names between 2 memorials. The group proposes to limit the Clydebank Town Hall Memorial to the names of deceased service personnel (currently 1358) and to enhancing the existing war memorial at Dalnottar Cemetery by adding the names of civilian victims of the Clydebank Blitz (468).
- f) The working group therefore commissioned revised mock ups to illustrate what the two separate memorials may look like and positive feedback has been received informally from Historic Scotland in relation to the Town Hall Memorial (Historic Scotland are not involved with Dalnottar).

- 3.2** It is now proposed to progress with a formal application for Listed Building Consent in respect of Clydebank Town Hall and development of finalised proposals for enhancing the Dalnottar War Memorial.
- 3.3** Work is therefore underway to finalise detailed proposals at both sites and Members are requested to agree to the group's proposals to enhance the two separate memorial sites.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** As part of the 2007/2008 Budget settlement agreed on 8 February 2007 the sum of £25,000 was allocated to this project and, as yet, remains largely unspent.
- 5.2** The full cost of the work will not be known until the design materials and the nature of the inscriptions has been finalised, however it is envisaged that costs may exceed the original allocation of £25,000 and a further sum may require to be identified.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** There is no requirement for a risk assessment to be carried out.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The Memorial Wall project is seen as a fitting tribute to those men and women from Clydebank who lost their lives during times of conflict and an opportunity for public remembrance.
- 7.2** It is important that any such memorial is as complete and as accurate as possible and meets the aspirations of the families represented, however, it must also be in keeping with its surroundings. It is for this reason that the group has considered several schemes and has settled on the splitting of names into two distinct categories and including them on two separate, but already existing sites of remembrance.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members of the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee are asked to:

- a) note the progress of the working group as outlined in this report;**
- b) authorise the working group to progress an application to Historic Scotland for Listed Building Consent for the Town Hall Memorial;**
- c) authorise the group to progress with the proposals for adding the names of civilian Blitz victims to the existing Dalnottar memorial;**

- d) instruct the Executive Director to bring a further report to this Sub-Committee with full costings once materials and designs have been finalised.

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Date: 1 September 2008

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: Report to Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee of 20 March 2008

Wards Affected: Ward 4 - Kilpatrick
Ward 5 - Clydebank Central
Ward 6 - Clydebank Waterfront