

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Roads and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services)

Council : 28 February 2007

Subject: Creation of a Memorial Wall in Clydebank

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to outline to Members 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.

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.
- 2.2** There is therefore presently no formal war memorial in Clydebank which includes the names of those service men and women who lost their lives whilst serving their country during World War 1, World War 2, Korean War, Gulf War, Northern Ireland or any of the other conflicts during the 20th and 21st Centuries.
- 2.3** At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 20 December 2006 it was noted 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.
- 2.4** At that meeting it was agreed that the Chief Executive should ensure a report was presented to the next Council Meeting on how such a place of public remembrance could be achieved.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** A £25,000 service enhancement proposal to create a permanent Memorial Wall at Solidarity Plaza in Clydebank was agreed as part of the 2007/2008 budget at the Council Meeting of 08 February 2007.
- 3.2** There already exists, within Solidarity Plaza, Clydebank, a suitable granite wall upon which the names of those to be commemorated can be inscribed.
- 3.3** Work is presently underway to collate a comprehensive list of all service men and women who require to be included. Information is being gathered from a number of sources including the War Graves Commission, National Archives, forces records offices and other sources.

it is considered important that the people of Clydebank and their families have the opportunity to review the proposed list of names and contribute any information which they consider to be missing / incorrect.

- 3.4** It is therefore proposed to engage in a public consultation exercise which will result in a copy of the draft list of names being posted on the Council's website and made available for inspection within Council offices, libraries and other public buildings.
- 3.5** The public consultation will require to be completed by the end of March 2007 to allow work to commence. A completion date prior to veterans day on 27 June 2007 will be achieved.
- 3.6** It is anticipated that the total number of individuals to be commemorated will be somewhere in the region of 1,500 to 2,000. Once the final list of names is agreed, the availability of space within Solidarity Plaza and the level of funding allocated will determine whether the inscriptions include Name, Rank and Regiment of those to be commemorated or any combination thereof.
- 3.7** Solidarity Plaza was commissioned by Clydebank Re-built and discussions have taken place with officers from the company in connection with the suitability of the wall for this purpose. It is important that inscriptions made upon the existing granite wall do not damage or compromise any of the existing structure, fixings, etc. It is therefore proposed to further engage with the relevant officers to develop a design proposal which suits both the significance of what it will be commemorating and the design of the space that currently exists.

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 08 February 2007 the sum of £25,000 was allocated to this project.
- 5.2** Inscriptions of this nature are generally charged 'per letter' therefore the full cost of the work will not be known until the list of names has been finalised and the nature of the inscriptions has been determined.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** It is recognised that there exists a risk to inscribe incomplete or incorrect information on the Memorial Wall therefore efforts will be made to verify data through as many sources as possible including public consultation.
- 6.2** No formal Risk Assessment is required in relation to this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The Council recognises the desire of descendants and relatives of the fallen to have a permanent memorial which displays the names and other details of their loved ones who died during active service with the armed forces.
- 7.2** Creation of a Memorial Wall is seen as a fitting tribute to those men and women who lost their lives and will provide a permanent place of public remembrance.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** Members are invited to note the content of this report.

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held
on Wednesday, 20 December 2006

Wards Affected: Wards 1 - 10