

## Culture, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 February 2014</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Commemoration of the First World War</b>
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	<b>To consider proposals to commemorate the centenary.</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager</b>

### Background

The First World War was a turning point in world history and claimed over 16 million people across the globe. From 2014 to 2018 nations, communities and individuals of all ages will come together to mark, commemorate and remember the lives of those who lived, fought and died.

Some significant commemoration dates include:

- 1 August 2014            Outbreak of war
- 4 August 2014           First day of conflict
- 25 April 2015           Gallipoli Campaign
- 1 July 2016             Battle of the Somme
- 31 May 2016            Battle of Jutland
- 17 June 2017           Passchendaele
- 11 November 2018    Armistice Day

### Commemoration Projects for 2014

There does not seem to be any coordination with how other local community groups are marking the occasion so it may be that a Councillor or small group of Councillors would want to take on the responsibility and coordinate the timetable of projects planned for the next four years.

Below however, are five proposals that the Council could undertake with another proposal, under agenda item 14 b), received from Cllr Bretherton.

#### 1. Service of Remembrance 2014 – Sunday 9 November 2014

This year the Service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 9 November 2014. To commemorate the commencement of the First World War a commemorative service sheet could be produced with the names of the fallen from Thame and Moreton. These could be read out by the Town Mayor and Royal British Legion representative. In addition the poem 'In Flanders Field' could be included which could be read by a young member(s) of the community. A request has been made to RAF Joint Helicopter Command for a fly past; however, due to operational requirements this will not be confirmed until nearer the date.

#### 2. Armistice Day 2014 – Tuesday 11 November 2014

A two minutes silence has for the past few years, been marked outside of the Town Hall and led by the Town Mayor. 2013 saw a significant change in the numbers stopping and taking part in this tribute with even traffic stopping on the High Street.

The Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day 2014 could take place at the War Memorial with the British Legion present and displaying the Royal British Legion Standard, a bugler could play the last post and members of the public along with the market traders would be able to join together and observe the 2 minutes silence.

### 3. Planting of Poppies

The local British Legion has suggested the Council takes part in a national project to plant poppy seeds with D-Days (Dig Days) planned in March and April, encouraging volunteers of all ages to get involved.

Planting sites around the town could include:

- i) The wall at the back of the Memorial Garden.
- ii) Below the notice board in Moreton which is opposite the War Memorial.
- iii) The location of the old railway station on the Phoenix Trail, the place where most men left the town to go to war. Sustrans has been given permission and would like to work with volunteers to plant the area with other wild flowers.

### 4. Planting of the Memorial Garden

“Carpet” planting of the raised planters in the Memorial Garden with flowers in the design of the dates 1914 – 2014 in a green and red colour scheme. These would flower between July until the first frosts.

### 5. Modern Day Display

An exhibition collated by a young student, of modern day photographs depicting 90 men that would have been of conscription age (18-50). This would provide an opportunity to relate the impact of losing young men of this age if such an event were to happen now.

### Resource Appraisal

The budget for Remembrance 2013-14 has been estimated at £300 which just about covers the cost of the band and printing of service sheets. The additional estimated expenditure for each of the proposals is provided below and would need to be taken from General Reserves.

Proposal		Est
<b>1. Service of Remembrance 2014 – Sunday 9 November 2014</b>	Commemorative Remembrance Booklet 2014 (cost of 1,000 copies).	£200
<b>2. Armistice Day 2014</b>		£0
<b>3. Planting of Poppies</b>	Field Poppy Seeds (5 x 100g), Turf Cutter.	£600
<b>4. Planting of the Memorial Garden</b>	Specifically designed seeded planting carpets for laying onto flower beds.	£1000
<b>5. Modern Day Display</b>	Free use of meeting room for taking photographs over a 4 week period. Free use of Upper Chamber.	£0
		<b>£1800</b>

## Risk Assessment

Risk		Action taken to Mitigate the Risk
1.	Impact on work priorities	Work programmes and priorities would need to be adjusted to offer support to proposals 3 and 5. Other proposals could be integrated into current work programmes.
2.	Insufficient funds	Full Council agrees a contingency of £200 be added to the estimated budget totals providing a maximum of £2000 from General Reserves.

**Legal Powers:** War Memorials Act 1923, as extended by Local Government Act 1948, s133, Highways Act 1980, s96, Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10

## Action

The Committee is asked to:

- i) Agree which, if any of the proposals presented, the Council will undertake to commemorate the First World.*
- ii) Recommend a budget to Full Council to cover any associated costs.*
- iii) Decide if it wants to coordinate the Town's commemorative events and if so nominate a councillor(s) to take on the responsibility.*
- iv) Decide if the two minutes silence on Armistice Day 2014 should take place at the Memorial Gardens.*