

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Communities & Cohesion
2.	Date:	21st July 2014
3.	Title:	World War 2 memorial - Clifton Park Ward 2: Boston Castle Ward
4.	Directorate:	Environment & Development Services

5. Summary

The friends of Clifton Park in partnership with the Fellowship of the Services seek formal permission to erect a memorial in Clifton Park within the existing memorial garden to the servicemen from the Borough who were lost in active service during the Second World War.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That Cabinet Member approves the request to erect a memorial within Clifton Park to the servicemen of Rotherham lost in active service during the Second World War.

6.2 That Cabinet Member agrees to the adoption of the memorial onto the Councils inventory once installed.

7. Proposals and Details

Over a number of years there have been various requests from members of the public for a permanent memorial to the men of Rotherham who lost their lives in the Second World War; the First World War Cenotaph in Clifton Park is the most requested location as no other central memorial exists for the whole borough.

Work to identify which names should be commemorated started as early as 2007 led by a sub group of the Friends of Clifton Park in conjunction with The Fellowship of the Services and staff from Clifton Park and the Council's Archives services.

A concerted effort by the Friends of Clifton Park/Fellowship of the Services to raise funds to erect a memorial started in 2011 with an initial target of £30,000. The current fund balance is now in excess of £30,000 including public donations, ward member contributions and a substantial contribution by Morrison Construction to allow the memorial to be built in 2014.

Although a number of designs have been considered by the group, a secular design consisting of a curved wall of light grey granite blocks with a sloping face is felt to be most in keeping with the original design intent of the memorial garden behind the cenotaph, the curve of the wall following the curve of the existing walls and paths within the garden. The granite will match the top of the central fountain (VC Memorial) and the steps to the cenotaph. Inset black granite plaques will mirror the shape of the plaques on the existing cenotaph.

The names on the memorial will consist of the initial and surname of each person in alphabetical order rather than by regiment or service.

The design has been discussed with the Council's Conservation Officer within Planning Services who supports the design and scale of the project which will add to the setting of the existing grade II listed cenotaph rather than detract from it.

8. Finance

The cost of the memorial project will be in excess of £30,000 including the cost of foundations etc. The whole cost will be met from funds currently held by the Friends of Clifton Park.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Future maintenance of the memorial would be the responsibility of the Council. However, any risk this might bring would be mitigated by the simple robust design of the memorial.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This proposal helps to contribute towards the fourth of the Council's Corporate Priorities: ***CP 4 - Helping people to improve their health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities within the borough.***

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Design proposals – Attached.

Planning Service (Conservation Officer)

Legal & Democratic Services (Director)

Financial Services

Land & Property Section

Friends of Clifton Park

Fellowship of the Services

Royal British Legion

Ward members have been consulted via the friends group and have supported the project aims.

Contact Name: Andy Lee, Urban Green Spaces Manager, Leisure & Green Spaces, ext, 22457, andy.lee@rotherham.gov.uk