

**SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL****World War 1 Working Party****Full Council – 16 October 2018****1. Introduction**

This report is to provide an update of the work of the World War 1 Working Party.

**2. Report Details**

- 2.1** The photographs of World War 1 soldiers have been supplied by Mark Sutton and they are being made into banners by the printer. They should be ready to put up by the end of next week. The idea will be for them to be on display in Queens Park until the end of November. The cost of the banners will be £300 plus VAT. An example is attached.
- 2.2** One of the organisers of Swindon Stitch & Bitch has arranged for children to make up stones painted with poppies. These stones will be placed in Town Gardens and other locations in Swindon. The idea being for children to find the poppy stones and then make a donation to the Royal British Legion. The Parish Council has agreed to help with the costs of paints etc, which will be less than £50.
- 2.3** The Working Party wanted to look at putting a mural in the underpass to Coate Water and include school children in producing the mural. Lawns Primary School had indicated that they would be interested in taking part. The mural would be similar to the design suggested for the library with the addition of poppies in the flowers. A meeting was held with the artist, who are experienced in working schools to produce murals and they would be very interested. However, the underpass is very damp and it would not be possible to carry out the painting until the better weather. They are suggesting May or June next year. The Parish Council would also need to prepare the underpass and paint the blue sky ahead of the children painting the flowers. The artist will be providing an estimate which should be available in time for the meeting.
- 2.4** The tree planted in Old Town to mark the end of World War 1 has been identified and a plaque will be placed at the tree. It is suggested that it is a simple stake plaque, similar to the one shown in the photograph attached. I will contact Enterprise Works to see if this is something that can provide and obtain a price. The suggested wording is 'The tree was planted by the people of Swindon on (date to be confirmed) to mark the end of World War 1. This memorial plaque was placed at the tree by South Swindon Parish Council to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of war.' This wording is an idea and open to be changed.
- 2.5** The work to be carried to install the War Memorial is very specialist as it requires the contractor to be able to carry out both horticultural work and building work. For that reason Cotswold Estates & Gardens Ltd were asked to quote. They provide both these services and the quality of their work is known as they have been used by the Clerk before. The initial quotation they have provided is attached and this will be amended to take account of the change of seating and the fitting of the war memorial. A plan is attached of the site and the War Memorial will need to be sited on the grass as the curve of the Memorial will not fit on the circle footpath. This will be fine as the War Memorial can be viewed from both sides. The final quotation is still awaited, but it will take the price to over the original budget of £20K. I have spoken to the Chair & Vice-Chair and they have agreed the extra expenditure, as the contractor needed to be appointed. This overspend needs to be approved retrospectively.

**2.6** The War Memorial site at GWR Park is progressing and work started on Monday 8 October 2018. I met with the contractor and the artist on site that morning and they are both confident of completing the memorial before 10 November 2018.

**2.7** It now remains to arrange the unveiling of the War Memorial, which is planned to take place on Saturday 10 November 2018 at 3.00pm. The Mayor of Swindon will be invited and it is hoped that the Sea Cadets will carry out a drill on the day.

### **3. Recommendations**

**3.1** That Financial Regulation 11 a ii would apply for specialist services and the quotation to a maximum figure of £16,115 be approved and the cost be met from the WW1 Fund and the remainder from General Balances.

**3.2** That the other items of expenditure detailed in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4 be approved and the cost be met from General Balances.

**3.3** That a decision be made regarding the mural at Coate Water and the quotation be considered. This again would be a specialist quotation and Financial Regulation 11 a ii would apply.

**3.4** That the remainder of the report be noted.