

GRANT APPLICATION 2017/18 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Priority Corporate Outcomes	To promote an engaged and informed population To encourage a sense of community To create better life chances for children and young people and help them make a positive transition into adulthood	
Organisation	BARNET WAR MEMORIALS ASSOCIATION	ref 67/C/CTY
Address	c/o 16 Lullington Garth, N12	

Relevant policy, aims and objectives

The Corporate Plan, 2015-20, signifies the council's commitment to promoting civic pride and the quality of life; to helping build a sense of community; and to facilitating the conditions where an active and diverse community can thrive. The Community Participation Strategy seeks to build a strong civic society by increasing the level of community activity across the borough and develop a stronger partnership between the community and the council.

The Children and Young People's Plan, 2016-20, reflects a focus on improving outcomes for Barnet's younger population, creating the conditions for children and young people to develop skills and acquire knowledge to achieve their full potential and lead successful adult lives.

Activities / proposal

Barnet War Memorials Association (BWMA) is an unincorporated association formed in 2009 whose primary objective is to document and provide a permanent database record on a dedicated website of local residents commemorated on war memorials in the borough who lost their lives in the service of the crown in the first and second world wars and other conflicts. The association replaced two previous bodies, the Barnet War Memorials Trust, which ceased to operate in 1997, and an informal group, the Barnet War Memorials Initiative, which bridged the gap between the cessation of the trust and the association's formation. The aim is to augment the borough's heritage and enable local residents and others to learn about the sacrifices made.

In pursuit of this objective, the association has been researching the names of personnel killed on active service who are not remembered on their local war memorial. Fundraising has paid for new plaques to be made in their commemoration and, with permission, added to the appropriate memorial. The names of 228 war-dead have been added to the memorial in Hendon; another 137 to the one in New Barnet; and a further 46 to the one in East Barnet. A memorial paving stone has also been laid outside the former home of the first British soldier to be killed in action in the world war one in North Finchley. Another stone is to be laid this year to mark the death of an airman killed in an RAF crash in Golders Green in 1918.

This application relates to a proposal to construct a new war memorial in the grounds of Finchley Memorial Hospital to commemorate the death of 1,307 personnel from Finchley and Whetstone in the two world wars in time for the centenary of the signing of the peace treaty at the end of world war one in November 2018. The proceeds of local fundraising after the first world war went towards building the hospital instead of a memorial. The new structure, to be built in brown polished granite with engravings in gold leaf, will be fully accessible to wheelchair users and designed to enhance the hospital's leisure grounds, where it will be located. It will be permanently open to the general public.

The new memorial, which has the consent of Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and planning permission, will create a place of quiet contemplation and a focus for learning,

especially by children, who will be able to research names and illuminate their knowledge of the world wars, in the context of which the project is recommended for support. The council has agreed to maintain the memorial, once constructed, on an ad hoc basis, as it does with all other public war memorials in the borough.

Cost and financial need

BWMA is an entirely volunteer-led group with few recurrent overheads. It engages in regular fundraising in support of its various projects. Nearly £7,000 was raised over a four-year period to cover the cost of the new plaques on the Hendon, New Barnet and East Barnet war memorials and the memorial paving stone in North Finchley. The accounts for 2016/17 show expenditure of only £96, to obtain a website licence, in that year. At 31/3/2017, the association had cash reserves of £7,871, of which £4,137 were restricted funds, £3,137 being the proceeds of fundraising in support of the proposed new memorial and £1,000, inherited from a redundant charity, earmarked for relocating a war memorial at church in N12. The balance of £3,734 were uncommitted funds generated through fundraising to be used on future projects.

The cost of supplying and erecting the new memorial with gold leaf engravings at Finchley Memorial Hospital, based on a specialist contractor's estimate, is shown as £64,650 (inclusive of VAT). £25,082 has so far been raised towards the project, mainly by way of corporate and personal donations. £229 has been spent on obtaining planning permission, leaving a balance of £24,853. A grant of £5,000 is sought towards the current shortfall of £39,797.

The request is recommended for support on the basis that the anticipated award of charitable status, for which the association has applied, will bolster bids to a range of charitable trusts, several of which have signified their interest in supporting the project once the association has charitable registration.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£5,000

Start-up grant

One-off grant

Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) confirmation of the attainment of charitable status; (b) an update on the further grant applications to be made to achieve the fundraising target; and (c) an undertaking to notify commencement of the project and to facilitate an inspection by the council when it is complete.

Target grant outcomes

To augment the heritage of the borough and a green open space for the benefit of the local community and create a focus for children to learn and gain knowledge.

Date: January 2018