

INFORMATION NOTE – WORLD WAR 1 COMMENMORATIVE EVENTS & INNITIATIVES

UPDATE FROM THE HEAD OF POLICY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR TONY HUNTER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To advise the Committee on the local events and activities currently being planned to commemorate World War 1.
- 1.2 To bring to the Committee's attention details of Central Government's national funding announcements made in October 2012 in relation to initiatives commemorating World War 1.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This information note summarises the currently known activities and events that are being planned to commemorate WW1 locally.
- 2.2 Members are asked to note that Community Development Officers are liaising with the local branches of the British Legion with regards to any additional plans that they may have for WW 1 events in future years.
- 2.3 In addition, the Letchworth Area Committee will also receive a presentation from Dan Hill from Herts at War at the meeting scheduled for 12th March 2014.

3. PROJECTS / ACTIVITIES / SCHEME DETAILS

- 3.1 General information re WW 1 Commemorations within the County & District
- 3.2 Herts at War - 'Roll of Honour' launch event was held in the Arcade in Letchworth on Saturday 9th November last year.

Update on events and initiatives are detailed in Appendix 1 – Herts at War – February Project Newsletter.

- 3.3 The North Herts DC Museum Service is planning a major exhibition on WW1 at the new District Museum (Hitchin) in 2017 - a year when many young men from the District lost their lives. Ros Allwood is our Cultural Services Manager and lead officer for the Museum Service the is the main conduit for this at the moment.

The exhibition will explore how WW1 affected the soldiers who went to war, those who did not return, and those that they left behind. It will include important items from the collection from throughout the District - the villages as well as the towns - and is seen as opportunity to build partnerships with local history groups, the HALH (Hertfordshire Association for Local History), other museums, local historians and the Garden City Heritage Foundation, all of which are planning activities relating to the First World War.

- 3.4 HALH is coordinating work on Hertfordshire's War Memorials, and the University of Hertfordshire Heritage Hub is also encouraging local groups with research on the outbreak of WW1.

APPENDIX 14

- 3.5 RAFA along with assistance from the other armed services associations are planning a joint Veterans Day Commemorative Service & Parade in Letchworth on the morning of Sunday 29th June later this year.

Officers from the Council are supporting this initiative where appropriate.

- 3.6 In addition, the Letchworth Branch of the British Legion with support from the other armed services associations is looking to coordinate a Community Day event planned for Saturday 28th June 2014 to take place on Broadway Gardens the day before the formal Service & Parade.

Officers from the Council, LGCHF and the Arts Centre are supporting this initiative where appropriate.

- 3.7 Central Government's funding announcement to commemorate WW 1 initiatives is detailed in Appendix 2.

4. APPENDICES

- 4.1 Appendix 1 - Herts at War – February 2014 Project Newsletter

- 4.2 Appendix 2 - Central Government's funding announcement to commemorate WW 1

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