

REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	10th October 2013	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community and Planning	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Stuart Batchelor Ext: 5820	DOC:
SUBJECT:	World War One Commemorations	REF: SB/SC
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To note and approve the Council's support and involvement in the programme of events to commemorate the hundred year anniversary of the beginning of World War One.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform Members of the developing range of community led projects and events and gain their approval for the Councils support and involvement in the commemoration of the start of World War One.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Following on from the highly successful 2012 Jubilee and London 2012 celebrations it is important to the community of South Derbyshire that opportunities are taken to ensure important anniversaries and momentous events are celebrated or commemorated in an appropriate manner with the District Council playing an enabling and 'Civic' role in supporting and promoting community activity. With this in mind the hundred year anniversary since the outbreak of World War One should be commemorated in a way that recognizes the sacrifice made by local people along with raising awareness amongst the current population of that period in history and the role played by South Derbyshire.

Coordinating Group

- 3.2 Representatives of the District Council and the Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre have been liaising with local groups, most notably the Royal British Legion, Air Training Corp and Magic Attic, to collate a programme of projects and events that will enable South Derbyshire to maximise its commemoration of World War One. Many of these projects are totally led by the organisations mentioned and the Council is proposing to provide practical or promotional support to those organisations

Planned and Proposed Events:

3.3 The provisional and developing programme is as follows:

- **Ceremony/Open Air Service, Saturday 5th September** – an event provisionally planned for being held on the Delph in Swadlincote. Followed in the evening by a themed '**Last Night of the Proms**' and lighting of the beacon at Rosliston Forestry Centre.
- **'Trench' Project** – People Express are progressing an arts project through workshops and art/design delivery to the groups they are involved with. External funding being sought. This project will be unveiled at a future point.
- **Cycle Routes** - 6 routes that take in the WW1 memorials are being prepared, the routes will be available through the Councils website.
- **Cycle Event** – a community cycle ride around WW1 Memorials to be held.
- **National Forest Walking Festival** – themed walks to be included in the National Forest Walking Festival for 2014
- **Walking Programme** – a series of walks taking in WW1 Memorials to be staged throughout 2014.
- **1211 Air Training Corps (ATC)** – a commemorative trip to Belgium being organized by the ATC and the Corps are also planning to attend the 2014 Festival of Leisure with an exhibition.
- **Royal British Legion** - art competition to include all Schools in South Derbyshire.
- **Maurice Lea Memorial Park** – Teaching Resource with mini guided walk to be developed to explain the World War links with Park.
- **Sharpe's Pottery** - to hold an exhibition on 'Novelty Ware' produced by the potteries in the area during WW1.
- **Poppy Seeds** - Swadlincote British Legion selling Poppy Seeds via the Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre. All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal Fund. Environmental Education Service to provide 'free poppy seeds' at two events that are part of annual 'Free Tree Scheme'.
- **Council Owned War Memorials** – a number to be 'refreshed' and poppy seeds planted on adjacent areas.
- **Eureka Park Restoration Project** – naming of paths through the park. Naming / signage reveal event at the end of capital works contract (July 2014). A carpet bed to be created on the site of an existing flower bed to left of War Memorial Gates with a WW1 Commemoration image planted. The legacy would be that bed could be used for community organisations to have display in the summer (e.g.; Homestart, Lions, Rotary etc), then a poppy design or similar in autumn/winter for Remembrance Day.

- **Bandstand Challenge** – potential use of bandstands for WW1 songs/tunes by local brass bands.
- **Magic Attic** – staging an exhibition to be shown initially as a preview at Festival of Leisure and then as an exhibition in the Town Hall.
- **Festival of Leisure Exhibition** - incorporate a WW1 theme in the event which will be on 28th and 29th June (Anniversary of the assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand). Saturday 28th June is also Armed Forces Day which will provide further commemorative event opportunities at the Festival.
- **Parish Councils** – a request has been sent out for information on local events which can be featured in future ‘What’s On Guides’

3.4 Further events and projects will continue to be investigated including links with Rolls Royce and the Woodland Trust.

3.5 In partnership with South Derbyshire CVS and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) a workshop has been held for community groups/Parish Councils to promote the HLF scheme for small grants. This will be further promoted through the year with practical support to groups on how to make a successful application.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The current programme of events and projects will be funded from within existing resources.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The programme of activities for the WW1 commemorations is linked to the Council’s Corporate priorities and the key action of the ‘promotion of cultural events’ in the ‘Lifestyle Choice’ priority. The project would also contribute to supporting the ‘Safer Neighbourhoods’ objective of the ‘Safe and Secure’ priority in that it would provide significant opportunities for community engagement

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The WW1 commemorations provide the community of South Derbyshire an ideal opportunity to come together around a variety of projects and events which support local empowerment and well being.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The WW1 programme build on the community spirit ignited by the 2012 events with the Council continuing to play a supporting role.