



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	European War Memorial in Woodvale Park
Date:	12 June 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Michael Largey, Community Parks Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Council has received a request from the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) to install a memorial in Woodvale Park to commemorate all victims and nationalities that suffered during the Great War 1914 – 1918.</p> <p>The ABF is a charitable organisation that gives lifetime support to serving soldiers and retired soldiers and their families. The organisation has been operational for 70 years providing financial assistance when soldiers and their families have been in real need.</p> <p>Detailed architectural plans have been submitted along with the request and can be found at Appendix 1.</p> <p>An area in Woodvale Park has been identified as the site for the installation and is located close to an existing war memorial tree.</p> <p>The ABF have carried out all the work with regards design and have commissioned a stone mason and monument erector to build and install the memorial in the Park. It is proposed that the installation of the stone will take place prior to the 23rd August 2014, however only limited landscape works will be completed before this date due to the timeframe involved.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<p>The ABF has sourced the funds to purchase and install the memorial; however they have requested that the Council carry out the final landscaping after installation. This will include the erection of small railings, 2 flag poles, a paved hard standing area, installation of two park</p>

	<p>benches and limited decorative planting.</p> <p>The memorial will be made of limestone and will display 6 Coats of Arms which can be found at Appendix 2. Inscriptions from the ABF and the following five nations will be displayed on six separate sides on the memorial stone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Army • French Army • German Army • Dutch Army • Belgium Army <p>The memorial will also display “The Great War” and the date in Roman numerals.</p> <p>The architectural plans include the installation of two flag poles that will fly the European Union flag and the ABF flag on agreed memorial dates throughout the year.</p> <p>The parks team will be required to maintain the area and replace the decorative planting in line with the other seasonal bedding situated throughout the park.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The cost for the finishing landscape works is expected to cost no more than £7,500 and will be absorbed within the existing area park maintenance budget.</p> <p><u>Human</u> The Parks maintenance team will maintain the area as part of their normal maintenance regime.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u> Once installed, the stone memorial will form part of the Departmental asset portfolio and the Department will assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the memorial. It is expected that maintenance requirements will be minimal given the material used for the memorial with the main exception being the removal of graffiti.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no implications at this stage. However equality and good relations factors will be taken in to account with regards any planned commemorative activity at the new memorial area.

5.	Recommendations
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	<p>It is recommended that the Committee approve the erection of the proposed war memorial subject to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the drawing up of a legal agreement - it meeting planning approval requirements - the submission of structural engineer's design drawings <p>Also Committee are requested to approve a financial contribution to the project not in excess of £7,500 for associated landscape works.</p>
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6.	Decision Tracking
	All decisions to be monitored by Michael Largey, Community Parks Manager

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	ABF – Army Benevolent Fund

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Architectural Plans Appendix 2 – Coats of Arms and Inscriptions Appendix 3 - Costing