

Report of Director

World War I Centenary

**1 Purpose of report**

In 2018 it is likely that there will be many national and local celebrations of the end of the Great War. Members may wish to consider how they can make a contribution. This report suggests a way in which the council can commemorate both the centenary of World War I and also mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Major Mick Mannock.

**2 Executive summary**

The centenary of the end of the World War I is next year, and this coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Major Mick Mannock, so it is proposed that the council make a donation to the 378 Mannock Squadron Air Training Corps (ATC) (the Mannock Squadron).

**3 Appendices**

Appendix: plan of land leased to East Midlands Reserve Force and Cadets Association

**4 Proposed action:**

The committee is invited to

- 4.1 **RESOLVE that the council transfer the land on which the 378 Mannock Squadron Air Training Corps Centre is built upon to the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, with a restrictive covenant to limit its use to cadet training;**
- 4.2 **RESOLVE that the land be transferred during a presentation by the Mayor in 2018 to commemorate the end of the World War I and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Major Edward (Mick) Mannock.**

**5 Background**

- 5.1 Over the years the council and local community have honoured the service and bravery of Major Edward ("Mick") Mannock.
- 5.2 Mick Mannock was not born in the borough, but he had moved to Wellingborough by the age of 20 where he became an active member of the community. His bravery and leadership in conflict are well-documented.

- 5.3 On the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death the Mayor laid a wreath on his memorial at Doddington Road cemetery, accompanied by the 378 (Mannock) Squadron ATC. A plaque was also unveiled at the Sywell Aviation Museum.
- 5.4 It has been suggested that the council make a gesture in 2018 to mark both the end of the Great War and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Major Mick Mannock's death.

## **6 Discussion**

- 6.1 Since the council has already taken all the "traditional" steps to mark Major Mannock's death, and since the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the year of his death coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 1, members may wish to take a different approach.
- 6.2 It is therefore recommended that the council consider transferring the land on which the Cadet Centre sits in Spring Gardens, Wellingborough, to the Mannock Squadron.
- 6.3 This land was leased to East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association from 31 March 2004 for 99 years for a peppercorn rent.
- 6.4 It is therefore suggested that the land on which the Centre stands is transferred to the Squadron with a restrictive covenant that limits its use to that of a centre for training cadet forces.
- 6.5 The whole area of the land outlined on the appendix has been valued at £1,000. The transfer proposed relates only to the land outlined in pink on the appendix, but with continued access rights across the remaining land.
- 6.6 Having consulted the Head of Estates for the East Midlands Reserve Force and Cadets Association he has confirmed that, subject to member approval, the Association would be pleased to receive the donation, and is happy to take part in a hand-over ceremony in 2018.
- 6.7 It is suggested that the council retain the remainder of the land it owns. Whilst there is little likelihood of the council wishing to develop the land it may be strategically sensible to ensure that it is still available for projects such as minor road-widening or other similar schemes.

## **7 Legal powers**

Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003.

## **8 Financial and value for money implications**

- 8.1 The value of the land in question is minimal, and the current long lease is of no benefit to the council.

## **9 Risk analysis**

- 9.1 There is no risk attached to the retention of the land, and minimal risk associated with its disposal in the way outlined above.

## **10 Implications for resources, equalities, and stronger and safer communities**

There are no perceived implications.

## **11 Author and contact officer**

Bridget Gamble, Director

## **12 Consultees**

Liz Elliott, Managing Director

Julie Thomas, Director

Paul Burnett, Principal Property and Facilities Manager

Samantha Knowles, Principal Finance Manager

Fiona Hubbard, Democratic Services Officer (Mayoral)

## **13 Background papers**

Correspondence file relating to Major Mick Mannock



## **Appendix**

The area currently leased to the association is the land edged green. The land edged red is a verge and the land hatched in black is the proposed area to be transferred.

Cadet Training Centre, Spring Gardens, Wellingborough

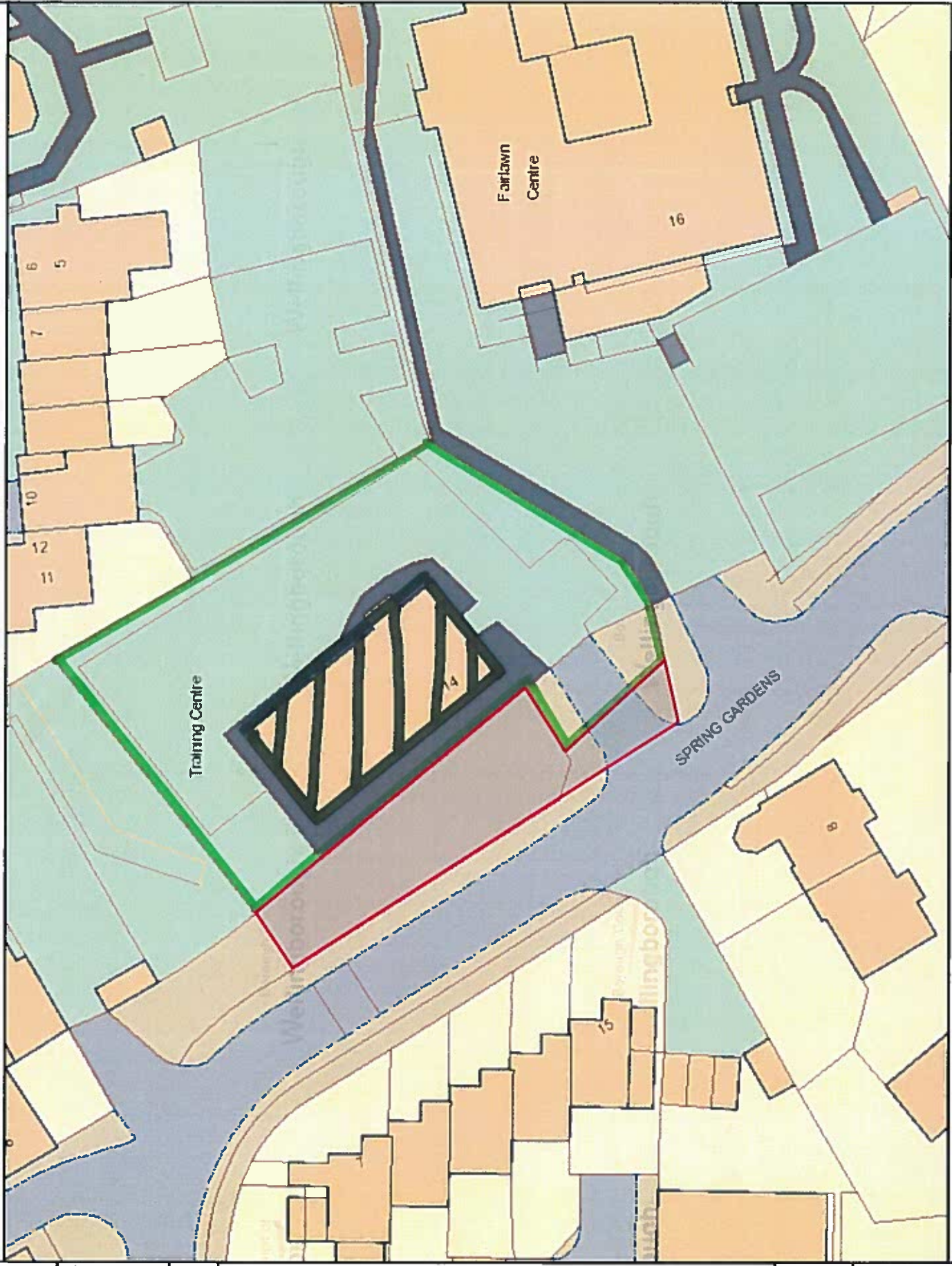
Barrough Council of  
**Wellingborough**  
Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of

Scale:  
1:500



Resources

**Legend**



Author: PB  
Date: 01/09/2017

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Cadet Association leased area edged green. The land edged red is a verge. Hatched area is that to be transferred.