

Report of Managing Director

World War I Centenary (update)

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 It was resolved by the resources committee on 13 September 2017, that a working group be set up to investigate possible opportunities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock VC, DSO and Two Bars, MC and Bar, and to consider other local events that may acknowledge the centenary of the end of World War I.
- 1.2 A financial contribution of £1,000.00 was agreed by the resources committee on 21 March 2018 for the arrangements of the proposed events, agreed by the World War I Centenary Working Party, to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock and the end of World War I.
- 1.3 The terms of reference for the working party stated that the group would meet to determine arrangements for the commemorative opportunities and a final report be presented to the resources committee by no later than June with the projects and activities agreed by the working party.

2 Executive summary

The working party has met and explored possible projects and activities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock and the end of World War I. This report confirms the projects and activities agreed.

3 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

4 Proposed action:

The committee is invited to RESOLVE the following:

- 4.1 **to note arrangements in relation to commemorating Major Edward (Mick) Mannock and the end of World War I, as agreed by members of the World War I Centenary Working Party;**
- 4.2 **any further decisions required to finalise detailed arrangements be delegated to the managing director, in consultation with the chairman of the working party;**
- 4.3 **that the working party has completed its terms of reference and will not meet again.**

5 Background

- 5.1 It was agreed by the resources committee that the council transfer the land on which the 378 Mannock Squadron Air Training Corps Centre is built to the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, with a restrictive covenant to limit its use to cadet training.
- 5.2 The resources committee also agreed that the land be transferred during a presentation by the Mayor in 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I and the 100th anniversary of the death of Major Edward (Mick) Mannock VC, DSO and Two Bars, MC and Bar; and to consider other local events that may acknowledge the centenary of the conclusion of World War I.
- 5.3 The resources committee also agreed that a working party be established to investigate other possible opportunities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock and to consider other local events that may acknowledge the centenary of the conclusion of World War I.
- 5.4 A World War I Centenary Working Party was established and funding of £1,000.00 for projects and activities was approved by the resources committee on 21 March 2018.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The working party has considered different projects and activities to commemorate Major Edward (Mick) Mannock's death and the centenary of the end of World War I.
- 6.2 It has been agreed with the Head of Estates at the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets that an event be held at the 378 Mannock Squadron Centre on 26 July 2018 between 5 pm and 7 pm, to sign over the deeds of the land followed by a Mick Mannock Afternoon Tea reception. The finalised format of the event is being agreed at the present time with the other parties involved.
- 6.3 The working party agreed that a Victoria Cross Commemorative Paving Stone be purchased for Major Edward (Mick) Mannock. The stone will include Major Edward (Mick) Mannock's name, his rank and regiment (at the time the VC was awarded) and the date of the action for which the VC was awarded. The paving stone would be fitted onto a stone plinth in Swanspool Gardens.
- 6.4 To run alongside the Victoria Cross Commemorative Paving Stone, it was agreed by the working party that the council write to town and borough primary schools asking them to take part by submitting a fact sheet remembering individuals who came from the town of Wellingborough and surrounding villages. It was also stated to the schools that the individuals didn't have to necessarily come from the borough, for example a pupil may have a relative who resided elsewhere that they may want to research. The work would be laminated and put onto stakes and placed into the ground and displayed in a community exhibition in Swanspool Gardens, near to the Victoria Cross Commemorative Paving Stone. Responses to this request are being received.

- 6.5 The timing of the unveiling of the Victoria Cross Commemorative Paving Stone and the community exhibition of fact sheets will take place on a date agreed leading up to 11 November 2018.
- 6.6 The design of a postcard (DL size) has been commissioned to commemorate World War I and Major Edward (Mick) Mannock) and will include the council logo and credits to the Friends of Wellingborough Library and also the conservator who had worked on the reproduction of the painting of Major Mick (Edward) Mannock. The Friends of Wellingborough Library will apply for a small community grant to cover this work.
- 6.7 The managing director wrote to a number of local groups and organisations, including parishes in the borough, to seek information of other WWI Centenary commemorative events that are taking place this year. Responses have been received and events are being organised and the council will publish on the council's website a "What's on" timetable locally for the 2018 commemorations. Permission is being sought from those holding events to ascertain if they are happy for their contact details to be publicised.
- 6.8 The "What's on" timetable will for completeness, also include other activities to commemorate the World War I centenary that are not public events, i.e. the projects and events contained in this report: the re-signing of the Armed Forces Covenant and the unveiling of the reproduction of the painting of Major Edward (Mick) Mannock.
- 6.9 Although some of the detailed arrangements are yet to be finalised, the majority of the programme is set, and it is now appropriate to bring the working party to a close. It is proposed that any final decisions are to be delegated to the managing director, in consultation with the chairman of the World War I Centenary Working Party.
- 6.10 The final programme and other information will be circulated to members by way of a briefing note.

7 Legal powers

Local Government Act 1972.

8 Financial and value for money implications

- 8.1 The budget was agreed by the Resource committee on 21 March 2018.

9 Risk analysis

- 9.1 Possible loss of reputation of the council if it does not commemorate the centenary of World War I. Public opinion and perception of the council could be adversely affected.

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

10.1 The main impact is officer time to facilitate the working group and the organisation of the events. These can be absorbed into current officer resources but may have an impact on other projects and tasks in the short term.

11 **Author and contact officer**

Liz Elliott, Managing Director.

12 **Consultee**

Fiona Hubbard, Democratic Services Officer (Mayoral).

13 **Background papers**

World War I Centenary Working Party Notes.