

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 7

meeting date: THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2018
title: WHALLEY MOOR COMMUNITY WOODLAND COMMEMORATIVE SIGN
submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
principal author: DAVID HEWITT – COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Committee approval to utilise part of the open spaces contribution secured as part of the Mitton road development to contribute to the cost of providing a sign commemorating the return of World War 1 wounded soldiers from the front to the military hospital at Calderstones, Whalley.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – Enhancement of the community woodland experience.
- Corporate Priorities – Recognises the historical context and important role that Calderstones had in World War I.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Under the provision of the Open Spaces Act 1906 the woodland was included as part of the public open space transferred to the Council in 2003 with a commuted sum for the whole of the developed land formerly owned by Calderstones Trust for a recreational use by local residents.

2.2 In 2012 additional Section 106 money was secured specifically for the management of Whalley Moor Community Woodland which allowed for the preparation of a Woodland Management Plan and phased selective felling with coppicing and timber extraction, designed to establish a more diverse tree cover.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Over 50,000 wounded soldiers were received in to Calderstones Hospital by rail via Clitheroe and Barrow. On arriving at the platform which is located in the woodland they were met by nurses and changed out of their filthy khaki uniforms into new blue uniforms.

3.2 The trains came in along a cutting which leads from Mitton Road opposite the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and whilst there is a blue plaque on the bridge at Mitton Road, currently there is no other form of memorialisation linking the arrival of wounded soldiers to Calderstones.

3.3 The woodland management plan seeks to ensure that the woodland will continue to provide multiple recreation, wildlife and amenity use. The hospital was used as a military hospital during the First World War and the location of the proposed sign has been chosen to be near to the platform to enhance the recreational value of the woodland by clearly setting out the historical context of the site for the benefit of visitors.

- 3.4 It is considered that the sign will contribute to the overall recreational value of the woodland in accordance with the management plan and as such is an appropriate use of part of the planning obligation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – N/A.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A.
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – The Council's reputation for recognising the historical significance of events and locations will be reinforced.
- Equality & Diversity – N/A.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Approve the release of £500 to contribute to the cost of the provision for the proposed Wounded Soldiers End of Journey Commemorative Sign.

DAVID HEWITT
COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Attached image of the proposed sign.

For further information please ask for David Hewitt, extension 4505.

REF: DHCMS/P&D/291118

Queen Mary's Military Hospital



1915-1920

Lest we forget



END OF THE JOURNEY

Around 56,000 soldiers injured during WW1 came here for treatment. They would get off at the platform (ahead), be met by nurses and changed out of their filthy khaki uniforms into new blue uniforms. Their trains came in from the right of the platform, where the path along the cutting leads to Mitton Road, opposite the Commonwealth War Graves and where there is with a blue plaque on the bridge. How must the soldiers have felt as they arrived? Such paradise after such hell.