
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	18 September 2018
Report By:	Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications	Report No:	HR/18/18/GB
Contact Officer:	George Barbour	Contact No:	2385
Subject:	REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATIONS		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight to Members the plans to commemorate Remembrance Sunday, the additional 'Battle's Over' commemorations and to recommend opportunities to support the commemorations and RAF 100.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Sunday 11 November 2018 marks 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.
- 2.2 Inverclyde Council has representation at commemorations across Inverclyde including the commemorations at the main war memorials in the towns and villages across Inverclyde.
- 2.3 The Council's arrangements for 2018 include supporting the addition of the national 'Battles Over' commemorations which involve starting the day with piping at dawn and ending the day with the lighting of beacons and church bells ringing out joining communities across the UK.
- 2.4 In addition to these arrangements, officers are seeking approval to install 'Tommies' - silhouetted figures - as part of the national 'There but not there' campaign to raise awareness and funds for various charities and to mark 100 years since the First World War.
- 2.5 The Council also supports, through its events support, the celebration of RAF100 and the work of Poppy Scotland and the report recommends activity to show further support.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:
- Notes the additional 'Battle's over' arrangements being held at Lyle Hill in addition to the acts of commemoration in towns and villages across Inverclyde.
 - Approves the purchase and installation of seven 'Tommies' to be sited close to the existing war memorials to support the 'There but not there' campaign.
 - Supports the additional activity to support RAF100, the work of the air force cadets locally.
 - Approves the support for Poppy Scotland, including the projections at Cowan's Corner, and authorises officers to examine opportunities for further use of projection equipment..

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The annual commemorations on Sunday 11 November 2018 take on an extra significance this year as the day marks 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the First World War.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council supports commemorations across Inverclyde with representation at all town and village remembrance services and wreath laying.
- 4.3 In addition, Inverclyde hosts a representative of the French Government, at an act of commemoration at Lyle Hill at the Cross of Lorraine to remember the Free French stationed in Greenock during the WWII.

5.0 BATTLE'S OVER

- 5.1 Communities across the UK will host additional acts of commemoration on Sunday 11 November 2018 and have been asked to support the 'Battle's Over' commemorations.
- 5.2 The Battle's Over programme for Inverclyde includes:
 - 06:00 – Pipers invited to play Battle's O'er before dawn
 - 11:00 - Remembrance services in the usual manner at each location
 - 18:40 – Lyle Hill commemoration at Free French Memorial
 - 18:55 - The Last Post to be played by bugler at WW1 beacon sites.
 - 19:00 - Lighting of WW1 beacons – Lyle Hill, Greenock
 - 19:05 - Ringing of bells throughout churches and cathedrals in celebration of the end of the war.
- 5.3 The above arrangements mean an alteration to the normal timing of the Lyle Hill Free French memorial commemoration. However, the French consul requires to attend an event of national commemoration that day and has asked that the commemoration at Lyle Hill service time be changed on this day.

6.0 TOMMIES – THERE BUT NOT THERE

- 6.1 In addition to the 'Battle's Over' commemorations, the Committee is asked to support the purchase and installation of three pieces of artwork – known as Tommies.
- 6.2 The Tommies (shown on Appendix 1) are silhouette figures depicting lone soldiers and are part of a national campaign, 'There but not there'.
- 6.3 The campaign seeks to commemorate those who died in the First World War, educate all generations to understand what led to the deaths of 888,246 British and Commonwealth service personnel and heal today's veterans who are suffering from mental and physical wounds.
- 6.4 The Tommies and their commemorative packaging are made by the Royal British Legion Industries, appropriately, by ex-service veterans employed by RBLI.
- 6.5 The Tommies stand 6ft, include a small hole to attach a poppy, weigh just 11kg and are only 6mm thick. The hollow outline is cut out of lightweight aluminium giving it strength and durability and stands on a 500mm x 500mm base plate with four holes to allow it to be bolted or pegged into the ground.
- 6.6 The cost of individual Tommies is £750 each with a small additional cost for installation. It is recommended that seven be purchased and sited at each of the main town and village war memorials across Inverclyde.

7.0 RAF 100

- 7.1 On 1 April 2018, the Royal Air Force celebrated its 100th birthday. RAF 100 is a yearlong celebration of the contribution made by the RAF over the past 100 years and looking forward to the next 100.
- 7.2 In Inverclyde, the Council is working closely with the RAF cadets to support a fundraising ball in Greenock Town Hall which is expected to be held in December but, due to the logistics involved, may be in 2019 before the end of the RAF 100 year end in March.
- 7.3 It is recommended that the annual fireworks show, organised by the Council's corporate communications service, will incorporate an RAF 100 theme with the musical theme focusing on flight as a backdrop to the performance.
- 7.4 The event, held in Battery Park at the location of the slipway used by the RAF for seaplanes, is free entry. As part of the support for RAF 100, the RAF cadets will be encouraged to use this as a fundraising and awareness raising opportunity with associated publicity supported by the Council.

8.0 POPPY SCOTLAND

- 8.1 The Council regularly, as part of its remembrance commemorations, supports the work of Poppy Scotland.
- 8.2 Two initiatives will take place locally to directly support Poppy Scotland with the Ginger the Horse statue in Greenock wearing a large poppy in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday and the Lyle Hill cross of Lorraine memorial will be lit red to show support for Poppy Scotland.
- 8.3 It is also proposed that the Council makes use of local projection equipment to screen footage supplied by Poppy Scotland onto the wall space at Cowan's Corner in Greenock in the lead up to Remembrance Sunday.
- 8.4 This will be subject to a technical test in advance of the event and, if successful, it is proposed that officers also examine opportunities to further utilise the projector and screen equipment to supplement existing events and activity or to create new events or activity in the area.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Finance

N/A

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Costs are to be fully finalised and as such it is proposed that an allowance of £7000 be set aside from the Revenue Contingency.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Revenue Contingency	WWI Events	2018/19	7		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

9.2 **Legal**

N/A

9.3 **Human Resources**

N/A

9.4 **Equalities**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

YES (see attached appendix)

NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

10.0 CONSULTATIONS

10.1 N/A

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 N/A

APPENDIX 1: IMAGES OF THE TOMMIES

