



**A public space war memorial – an opportunity for
our community to come together**

2nd March 2023

An opportunity for our community to come together

The Stoke Mandeville Village Society aims to ensure 'village life' remains at the heart of our growing community, and therefore seeks out opportunities to bring people together in order to help tackle social isolation & loneliness, promote well-being & to ensure respect of all parts of our diverse community within the Parish.

Having opportunities for the community to come together often requires amenities to be available for 'communing' to take place, and whilst both the historic and newer parts of village are well-served with amenities expected of an English semi-rural village there are always opportunities to improve.



Remembrance in the village

The village has 2 beautiful historical remembrance plaques for those who fell during the world wars – one in the church and another in the community centre. In addition, the streets in the new developments have been named after those fallen, which is another beautiful way to commemorate those from the village, lost many years ago.

However, the 2 historic memorials are not readily accessible to the general public (both venues are closed other than during services and/or events or activities being attended in both the church and the community centre). Not only does this feel like a missed opportunity for those wishing to pay their respects throughout the year to those involved in conflict, but it is also at odds with all the villages surrounding Stoke Mandeville who have beautiful war memorials with ‘fallen soldiers’ and poppy wreaths surrounding them throughout the year.



A snapshot of neighbouring villages/towns



The Lee



Weston Turville



Aston Clinton



Halton Village (not RAF base)



Wendover

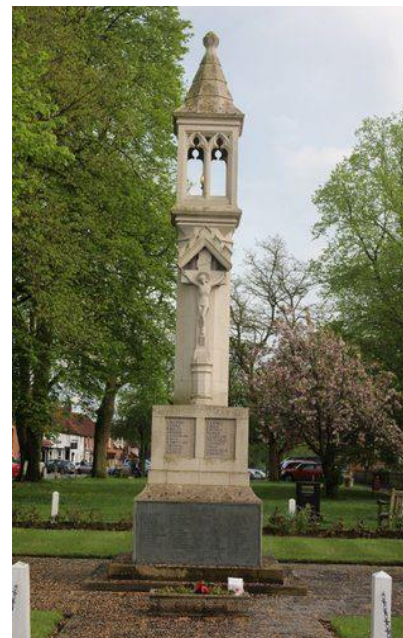


Bishopstone



Ellesborough

A variety of different styles across Buckinghamshire



And a variety of different locations



Winslow & Buckingham – main road but adjoined to the Church



Stewkley & Chesham – centre of village off the main road



Penn & The Lee – in the centre of the Village Green



A case study for a new war memorial installed 9 years ago



After the loss of Damian Lawrence and Andrew Found, Whitby Town Council created a new memorial board at St Mary's Church to record their names and 34 others that research uncovered were not listed. During this work Whitby Town Council realised that the Town no longer had a local point of remembrance—the War Memorial Hospital no longer exists to fulfil this role.

Whitby Town Council through its Armed Forces Working Party led by Councillor Sean Rixham-Smith set about remedying this. In a very short space of time much of the ground work had been laid. A magnificent response from local builders, stone masons, architects and suppliers backed up by some very generous donations from Whitby businesses, organisations and individuals brought the project close to realisation.

The memorial takes the form of a double plinth of locally quarried sandstone into which is set a simple but beautifully marked piece of Masi Quartzite from the far north of Norway—significant in that the Green Howards, our Yorkshire Regiment saw action there in 1940. When the Regiment lost 151 men and five officers, in recognition King Harald of Norway was made Colonel-in-Chief of the Green Howards.

There is not any carving except for a simple plaque "Lest We Forget" set into the sandstone. The location is on the Dock End where the Scoresby Statue once stood is a central location that will allow Towns people and visitors to pay their respects to those local people who have been lost in conflicts.

The Memorial boards listing the name of all the military personnel lost in conflict from Whitby are located in St. Mary's Church on the East Cliff next to the Abbey. There is an area for quiet contemplation within Pannett Park.



Whitby Town

Donations and offers of help made this project possible within a very short space of time. Financial backing and the very generous contributions of time and materials by both businesses and individuals are greatly appreciated by Whitby Town Council.

Donors & Volunteers 2013

740 Squadron Whitby Air Cadets	Siterite
Whitby LVA	Sky Scaffolding
Mr & Mrs T. Fox	MKM
RAFA	Mike Fenby
Mary Carter	Alf Abbott
Whitby Rotary Club	Parkol
Trenchers	Eskdale Stone
Thomas Brodrick	BHD Partnership
WDTA	John Ingram
Colin Winspear	Steven Fieldsend
Wetherspoons	Stuart Knaggs
Scarborough Borough Council	Phil Fennel
Mr & Mrs Stevenson	Pete Witney
Boyes	North Yorks. Fire Brigade
Ruswarp WI	James Godbold

The Memorial was unveiled by Councillor John Freeman, Town Mayor of Whitby, on 8th June 2013.



Former Whitby War Memorial Hospital

A unique opportunity for our community to come together by expanding our remembrance amenities

As the war continues to rage in the Ukraine and conflict is top of mind for many, The Society believes there is a unique opportunity for the Parish, in the curation of a war memorial which is *non-denominational in style* and *located in a neutral, easily-accessible place* for anyone to honour the dead of any conflict *at any time of the year* – not just for remembrance day



A Working Proposal for Stoke Mandeville

The Society suggests that the Parish Council set up a working group with the aim to curate a war memorial in 2023

Possible working group participants/volunteers:

- Parish Council
- Bucks Council Community Board
- Community Groups eg: U3A / Rotary Club
- The Village Society
- St Mary's Church
- RAF Halton
- Residents

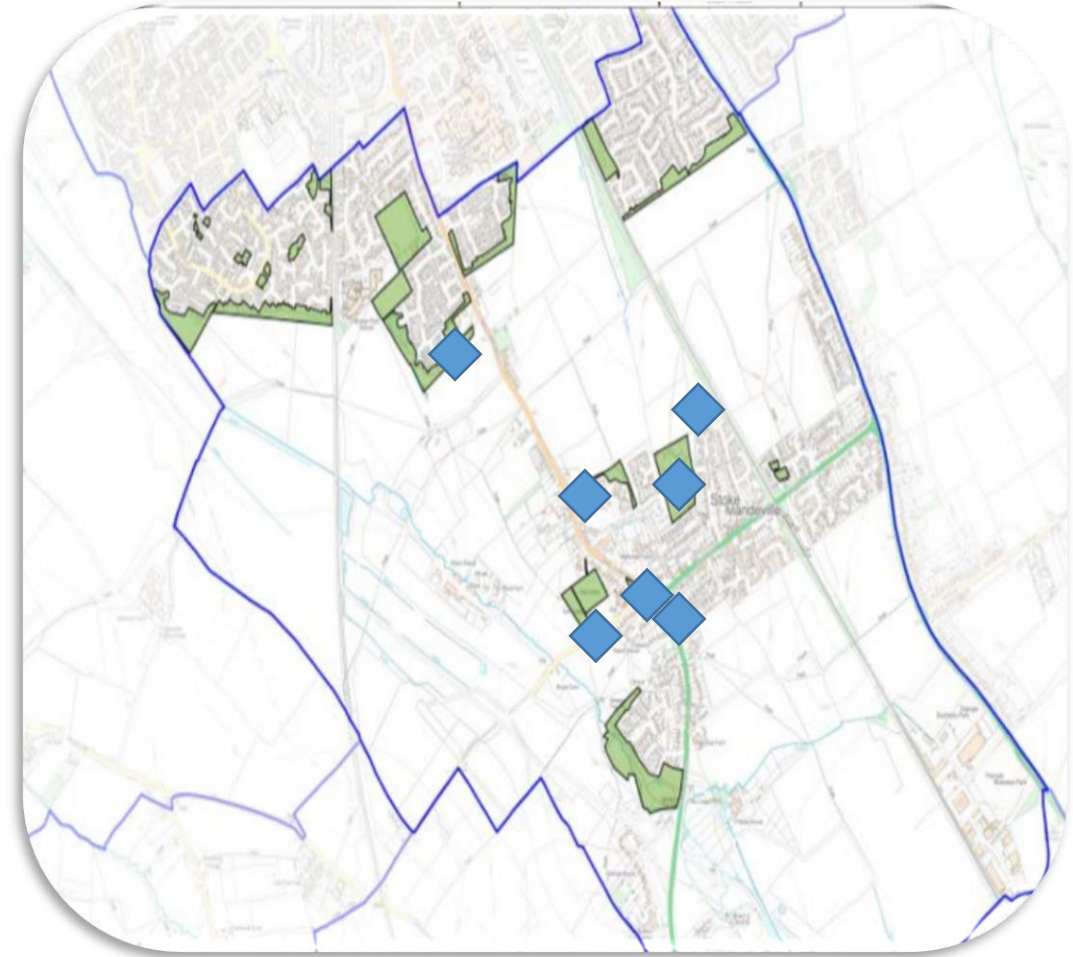
Consultees/support:

- War Memorials Trust
- Royal British Legion
- Families of the fallen in the village



Possible Locations

- **Village Green** (owned by Bucks Council – possibly to be gifted to the PC)
- **Brudenell Drive** (private land – possibly to be purchased by PC)
- **Marsh Lane New Burial Ground** (land owned by PC)
- **Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields** (owned by PC)
- **Land behind the Playing Fields** (possibly to be purchased by the PC)
- **'The Hawthorns'** green space at front of development (subject to permission from Abbey Homes)
- **'Stoke Leyes'** green spaces (land ownership tbc)



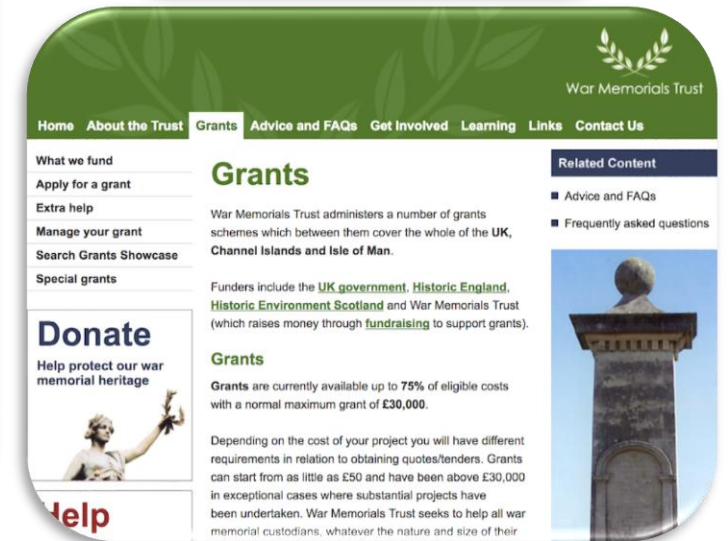
Possible Costs

We propose a **combined approach** (as taken by Whitby Council) whereby a number of sources fund the memorial eg:

- Bucks Community Board
- Parish Council Grant
- SM&OP Charity Grant
- HS2 Community Funds
- Lottery Funding
- The War Memorials Trust
- The Village Society Donation
- Local Businesses
- Private Donations*

**4 x private donors already sourced if required*

***Approx budget: £3-£5k depending on design & installation costs*



Proposed Timings

March - PC to debate proposal / set up WG
April - scope project & submit grant requests
May - tender for designs
June - public consultation on designs
July - appoint design
August – Oct - implementation

The Society would hope that the working group can aim to have the memorial installed in October, ready for a public Remembrance Service 11th November 2023



Thank you