

SUBJECT	World War One Special Commemoration Small Grants Scheme
RELEVANT MEMBER	Councillor Liz Walsh - Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities
REPORT AUTHOR	Natalie Judson, Natalie.judson@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To give an overview of the World War One (WW1) special small grants scheme and the successful projects awarded funding to commemorate this landmark year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For Members to recognise the positive work undertaken through the World War One special small grant scheme and note the report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report outlines the recent WW1 projects delivered by a mix of voluntary & community groups to Parish and Town councils through the council's special small grant scheme.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The WW1 special small grant scheme has had a hugely positive impact across the district and has supported local communities recognise and reflect on the enormous contribution of the armed forces locally.

4. Content of Report

- 4.1. The Centenary of the First World War provided an opportunity for communities to mark this legacy by exploring, conserving and sharing their own local heritage of the First World War, from memorials, buildings and sites, to photographs, letters and literature.
- 4.2. In support of the landmark year, Chiltern District council contributed £1,000 to the Countywide WW1 centenary event held in Aylesbury, on Sunday 11th November, which Cllr Mimi Harker OBE & Armed Forces Champion attended as Chiltern District Council's representative. At a district level a special small grants scheme was established, inviting local town and parish councils and community groups to apply for funding of up to £300 per project, this scheme was launched in October 2018.
- 4.3. Twelve applications requesting an overall total of £2,916 were received. Projects were scored against whether they facilitated community

participation, links with the young people and working in partnership with others.

Successful applications – overview

- 4.4. Eleven successful applications were awarded a total of £1,837.32. The projects covered a whole range of special activities, from beacons of lights ceremony to the unveiling of commemorative flags. This project also helped lever in additional funding from other external sources including; The Royal British Legion and local Town and Parish Councils.
- 4.5. Amersham Town Council – contribution towards WW1 Beacons of light (battles over) where 1000 beacons were lit throughout the UK. Funding contributed specifically towards 100 mini beacons (tea lights) paint and holders which were decorated by Amersham school children.
- 4.6. Chalfont St Giles Parish Council – contributions towards Chalfont St Giles remembers series of events and the display of poppy decals in all of the shops and businesses in the high street. This display reflected the unity of spirit and community that was present amongst villagers at the end of the First World War.
- 4.7. Chalfont St Giles Revitalisation group – contributions towards the creation of the WW1 Chalfont St Giles memorial book, which captures the contribution of local villagers and the impact of the war on village life.
- 4.8. Chalfont St Peter Parish Council – contributions towards commemorative flags hanging from the shop fronts in the centre of the village. Flags went up week of 13/14 October where they remained until just after 11th November. The project involved partnership working with the Royal British Legion who played a key role in helping design the commemorative flags.
- 4.9. Chesham Town Council- contributions towards the lone piper playing ‘The Battle’s over’ at 6 o’clock on the morning of the 11th November, the lighting of the beacon ceremony and various other evening commemorations.
- 4.10. Hilltop Villages Good Neighbour Group & supporting organisations such as; Hawridge & Cholesbury commons preservation Society, Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards local history group- contributions towards a commemorative wooden bench with inscriptions dedicated to those from the villages of Buckland Common, Cholesbury , Hawridge and St Leonards. Research conducted by the local history group identified over 175 local men who served in the armed services during WW1.

- 4.11. Little Chalfont Parish Council- contributions towards the purchase of Twenty-Two flags attached to flag poles displayed across the village. The flags were specifically designed to commemorate and represent the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- 4.12. Mini Movers and Shakers – contribution towards a special WW1 inter-generational themed rocks activity session. The session focused on interaction between the older members of the Chesham Methodist church Movers and Shakers group undertaking activities with parents and their young children. Reminiscing songs were sung during this time and poppy seeds given to the children to plant in remembrance.
- 4.13. Old Amersham Revitalisation Group- contribution towards the purchase of a 'WW1 Tommy' silhouette figure which was installed at the Memorial Gardens in Amersham Old Town.
- 4.14. Penn and Tylers Green Remembers'- contributions towards the fifty eight erected wooden crosses, a flagpole and beacon to commemorate villagers from Penn and Tyler's Green. Special talks were also carried out in the local school giving important local historical background information to the relevance of the crosses.
- 4.15. Seer Green Village – contributions towards thirteen erected wooden/metal structures and ceramic poppies at the war memorial in the village. Seer Green Village was presented with a WW1 Centenary pictorial edition newspaper dedicated to the sixteen soldiers who took part in the war from the village.

5. Consultation

- 5.1. The scheme was promoted extensively throughout the district on social media, through the local media and directly to a diverse range of community groups including Town and Parish clerks, Members, the Armed Forces Covenant board and voluntary groups.
- 5.2. Local radio station, Mix 96, highlighted the grant scheme and the eleven successful projects, raising the profile of the various wards and community groups.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Financial-

There are no additional financial requirements as the funding for this project was sourced internally from within the existing Community team budget.

6.2 Legal - no implications

7 Links to Council Policy Objectives:

Work towards supporting and promoting cohesive and stronger communities-

- Promote local communities
- Support the voluntary sector
- Engage with Town and Parish Councils
- Engage with local neighbourhoods
- Encourage collective working to promote and commemorate WW1
- Develop and support activities that encourage greater interaction between older and younger people, including events that relate to commemorating World Wars, local history projects.
- Facilitating community participation, engagement by publicizing, through councils social media platforms, the various events and activities.
- Be an active member of the Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Covenant Board.