

<b>SUBJECT</b>	World War One Special Commemoration Small Grants Scheme
<b>RELEVANT MEMBER</b>	Councillor Patrick Hogan - Cabinet Member for Community, Health & Housing
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Martin Holt- Head of Healthy Communities
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Natalie Judson, <a href="mailto:Natalie.judson@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk">Natalie.judson@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</a>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	All

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To give an overview of the South Bucks District Council World War One (WW1) small grants scheme and report on the 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. The WW1 special small grant scheme supported seven local projects across the District to commemorate the centenary of WW1 and recognise the contribution and sacrifices of local residents.

## 3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The WW1 special small grant scheme has had a positive impact across the District and enabling local communities to 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 gave 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, public speaking events, letters and literature.
- 4.2. In support of the landmark year, South Bucks District Council contributed £1,000 to the Countywide WW1 centenary event held in Aylesbury, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, which Councillor Wendy Matthews attended. At a local district level a special small grants scheme was established inviting Town and Parish Councils and community groups to apply for funding of up to £300 per project to help commemorate the centenary of World War One. The scheme was launched in October 2018.
- 4.3. Seven applications requesting an overall total of £2,100 were received. In accordance with the Council's Community and Wellbeing Plan projects were evaluated against a range of criteria including facilitating community participation, linking with young people and working in partnership with others.

- 4.4. All seven applications received funding which totalled £1,250. The projects covered a range of special activities, from beacons of light and inter-generational public speaking events through to the displaying of commemorative flags and soldier silhouettes in High Streets and village greens. This scheme also helped lever additional external funding from other sources including the Royal British Legion and local Town and Parish Councils.
- 4.5. Beaconsfield Town Council – supported a series of events from 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> November. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November the Beaconsfield Speech Contest was held at the National Television Film School and invited young people between the ages of 12-17 years to be the voice of the youth on war and peace. The funding contributed towards technical fees for staffing engineers and printing costs for publicity. The beacon lighting took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> November with this funding contributing towards the cost of the gas cylinder and other items for the running of this event. Beaconsfield Town Hall also hosted a memorabilia exhibition.
- 4.6. Bekonscot Model Village and Railway - held a WW1 commemorative trail with specially created models plus, an exhibition of local stories on display in their education centre along with a poppy making activity. A celebration event on the final weekend of 27-28<sup>th</sup> October provided historical re-enactors onsite who organised activities for children. The funding contributed towards two re-enactors; a Tommy who ran drills with the children using broom handles, and a field nurse/Edith Cavell who ran first aid activities. This was the highlight of the event and brought this period to life.
- 4.7. Burnham Royal British Legion- contribution towards a public charity event - '100 years – End of WW1 Centenary Party' held on 17<sup>th</sup> November at Burnham Park Hall. This event showcased the partnership between the Royal British Legion and Burnham Park Management giving this community the opportunity to come together to mark this land-mark date and raise important funds for the British Legion poppy appeal.
- 4.8. Fulmer Parish Council, St James Fulmer and local residents - following resident requests for the permanent installation of a six foot Tommy aluminium silhouette, to provide a focus for reflection and be a symbol for all the fallen during this Centenary year, the Parish Council agreed to its installation in the grounds of Fulmer village green. Several pledges of funding from residents and St James Church contributed towards the overall cost with this special grant providing additional funds.
- 4.9. Gerrards Cross Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL)- contributions towards the centenary 'Field of Remembrance' located on Gerrards Cross common commemorated the twenty residents from Gerrards Cross who lost their lives during WW1. The Field also comprised of 100 free standing poppies contained

within a fence made from wooden crosses. At the rear of the field two large RBL Tommy silhouettes together with some WW1 picket posts with barbed wire (film prop) will be in situ. Space at the front of the field was left for the public to plant personal tribute wooden crosses. Local schools were consulted to produce tributes also to be planted in the field.

4.10. Gerrards Cross Community Association- contributions towards the re-framing the presentation of photographs which represent VE day celebrations from newspapers dated May 1945. These will be displayed in the Royal British Legion room, a popular community asset used by many community groups, for all to see.

4.11. Stoke Poges Parish Council – contribution towards the decorating of the village green with ‘lest we forget’ bunting and a new flag for the flagpole.

## **5. Consultation**

5.1. The scheme was promoted extensively throughout the district on social media, through the local media and directly across a diverse range of community groups including Town and Parish clerks, Members, the Armed Forces Covenant Board and voluntary 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 and Leisure team budget.

6.2 Legal – no implications

## **7 Links to Council Policy Objectives:**

7.1 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.