

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

THE GREAT WAR ONE HUNDRED YEAR COMMEMORATIONS 2018

Purpose of the Report

1. To:

- pay the County Council's respects to the 14,000 brave men and women of Nottinghamshire who gave their lives in the service of their King and Country during the Great War;
- review the County Council's proposals to commemorate the end of the Great War;
- allow Members to address Full Council on any events taking place in their electoral divisions, especially those in which they will be directly involved; and
- for the Council to acknowledge these local events.

Information

2. This year marks the passing of 100 years since the end of the Great War. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport at a national level is planning a programme of centenary ceremonial, cultural, and educational events.
3. The Council's priorities are to support legacy projects to ensure that local landmarks and events are appropriately recorded, highlighted, and commemorated for future generations. The aim is to bring the Past, Present and Future to life, by promoting events that commemorate the proud history and sacrifice of Nottinghamshire people. To mark the centenary of the Great War the County Council established a Community Commemoration Fund. The fund offered financial grants of up to £300 to local communities to help reflect on what the war meant for their local area and how the lives of people were changed forever. Working with a range of partner organisations also commemorating their 100th anniversary the activities eligible for funding included: Educational visits, local exhibitions, music concerts, film shows, memorial research and restoration, talks and demonstrations, and poetry, prose and painting. List not exhaustive.

For King and Country

4. The County Council understands the rich history and sacrifice placed upon the county, and also the transformation that the War caused, that changed our lives forever.
- a. With the introduction of the 'Defence of the Realm Act', Nottinghamshire territorials were quickly mobilised. The 4th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters mustered in Newark, and marched in full pack order the 40 miles to Derby to catch trains to the front.

- b. Over 70,000 men from Nottinghamshire went to war.
 - c. Clipstone Camp was one of the largest training camps in the Country, and 30,000 men were trained there every year. Faint traces of the camp and the trenches that the men dug can still be found today.
 - d. Bakers in Southwell produced 5,000 loaves of bread daily to feed the recruits in training at Clipstone.
 - e. Our sailors on the high seas participated in the Battles of Heliogoland Bight, Dogger Bank, and Jutland.
 - f. Our soldiers fought in the trenches at Gallipoli, the Somme and Passchendaele.
 - g. Our daring young men in their flying machines, members of the Royal Flying Corp, later the Royal Air Force, became the superstars of their day. Notably Captain Albert Ball VC.
5. The County Council also recognises the essential contribution of those that kept the mines, factories, farms, buses, trams and the home fires more generally burning during the those difficult days of war.
- a. It is estimated that over 35,000 Nottinghamshire women were employed on war contracts of all types. Their vital work included:
 - Making 90,000 gas respirators per week;
 - The 'Chilwell Canaries' at the Chilwell Shell Filling Factory filling 19 million high explosive shells per year, over a half of the nation's entire munitions production.
 - The Post Office employed women on both deliveries and sorting, and 62 became tram conductors.
 - Many immediately responded to the Red Cross appeal, and volunteered as nurses, joining the Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospitals. In the first instance they served across county, but latterly nearer the front.
 - b. At Home, families endured the heartache of the 'Lost Generation', and also scarce supplies of food and fuel. Most remained outwardly cheery, accepting privations as part of their patriotic duty.
6. The County Council acknowledges the supreme acts of gallantry shown by the six men born in the County of Nottingham who were awarded the Victoria Cross. They are;
- Lance Corporal Wilfred Dolby Fuller – gazetted 15 March 1915
 - Private Samuel Harvey – gazetted 29 September 1915
 - Captain Geoffrey Vickers – gazetted 14 October 1915
 - Sapper William Hackett – gazetted 23 June 1916

- Captain Albert Ball – gazetted 6 May 1917
 - Sergeant William Henry Johnson – gazetted 3 October 1918
7. The County Council fully supports the introduction of a new named memorial on the Victoria Embankment, which will be officially unveiled next year. For the first time, this memorial will honour both civilian and military deaths in one place. This has added poignancy, as in July, we commemorated the Chilwell Shell Filling Disaster, a moving tribute to the 139 men and women that died in that terrible explosion.

Proposed activities to mark the end of the Great War in 2018.

8. **Sgt William (Bill) Johnson VC – 1/5 Battalion The Sherwood Foresters:** The Victoria Cross was awarded to Sergeant Johnson on 3 October 1918, following his exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty during action at Ramicourt. To mark the centenary of his action, and in line with national guidance, a paving stone will be placed in the Memorial Gardens, The Canch, Worksop. There will be a service of remembrance, civic reception, and a display of artefacts relating to him at the local library.
9. **Britten’s War Requiem Concert:** County choirs and the Nottingham Harmonic Society will perform Britten’s War Requiem, with Braimah Kanneh-Mason playing Vaughan Williams’ Lark Ascending. The event will be held on Sunday 4 November, at the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham.
10. **Commemorative Service and Armed Forces Covenant signing:** The Dean of Southwell Minster will conduct a Commemorative Service to mark the end of the Great War. To show our commitment to the current armed forces community, planning is underway to hold a joint Commemorative Service and Armed Forces Covenant signing on Tuesday 6 November. The collective signing involving all local authorities in Nottinghamshire is supported by Col John Wilson [retd] OBE DL, Regional Engagement Director, East Midlands, and Defence Relationship Management M.O.D.
11. **Games of Remembrance:** Nottinghamshire is to host the Greatest Game of Remembrance on Thursday 8 November. Notts County and Nottingham Forest Football Clubs have both joined forces with the British Army Football Association to play two games, one at each of both clubs against representatives of the German Armed Forces. Notts County will host the women’s match at their stadium in Meadow Lane, with a 12pm kick off. The men’s match will take place later at the City Ground, with a 7pm kick off.
12. **WW1 Beacons of Light:** Her Majesty the Queen will light a Beacon of Light at 7pm on 11 November 2018 at the Tower of London, signalling the lighting of Beacons across the Nation. A Beacon will be lit at County Hall to mark the occasion. As Beacons blaze around the country, bells in 1,000 churches and cathedrals will ring out in celebration of the end of the Great War.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The County Council will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War, including the proposed county-wide events and community projects. This report outlines and commemorates the end of the Great War and its impact upon Nottinghamshire communities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

15. No direct implications.

Financial Implications

16. No additional implications. All proposed activity was authorised by Policy Committee on 24 January 2018.

Human Resources Implications

17. None.

RECOMMENDATION/S

This Council:-

- 1) acknowledges the sacrifice of the 14,000 brave men and women of Nottinghamshire who gave their lives in the service of their country during the Great War;
- 2) endorses the programme of events in 2018 to commemorate the end of the Great War, as agreed by Policy Committee on 24 January 2018; and
- 3) agrees that a final report on this programme of work will be taken to Policy Committee, with any interim update reports being taken to the Communities and Place Committee.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

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Constitutional Comments [SLB 29/08/2018]

18. Full Council may consider the matters set out in this report.

Financial Comments [RWK 30/08/2018]

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 16 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All