

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 3 SEPTEMBER 2013  
title: RIBCHESTER WAR MEMORIAL  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: CHRIS HUGHES, HEAD OF CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES

## 1 PURPOSE

To consider a proposal by Ribchester Parish Council to site a war memorial on Council land.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 We have been approached by the Parish Council, who are looking to provide a war memorial for the village of Ribchester.

2.2 A committee was recently established to explore the issues surrounding the project, the most important being its location.

## 3 CURRENT SITUATION

3.1 Having explored a number of sites across the village, the war memorial association has identified their preferred site as land to the rear of the Greenside Car Park (please see enclosed plan).

3.2 Other sites considered were:

- At the junction of Ribblesdale and Blackburn Road
- Opposite the Ribchester Arms on Blackburn Road
- At the entrance to the Playing Fields on Church Street

3.3 Greenside was chosen as the preferred site because of:

- its peaceful and natural setting
- its location is half way between the two village churches
- the car park to use as an off-road gathering space

## 4 ISSUES

4.1 The construction of the war memorial will require Planning permission, and, because of its proximity to the area designated as a scheduled ancient monument, may require additional consent, depending on the method of construction. This would be a matter for the Parish Council to deal with.

4.2 The car park at Greenside is also next to an area of public open space, owned by ourselves. Although there is no formal play equipment on the site, it is used by young people and families for recreational purposes. Members should, therefore, consider whether there is a potential clash with current and proposed use.

## 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- **Resources** – there would be no costs incurred by the Council, if approved, either with the establishment of the war memorial, or its ongoing maintenance.
- **Technical, Environmental and Legal** – If approved, it would be preferable to agree a licence to occupy an agreed parcel of land. Given the nature of the project, this would be on a long term basis.
- **Political** – the profile of the First World War, in particular, will have an increased profile, with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary starting next year.
- **Reputation** - none

## 6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Notes the contents of the report, and considers whether to agree, subject to any conditions, to the allocation of land at Greenside for the provision of a war memorial.

JOHN C HEAP

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CHRIS HUGHES

HEAD OF CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES

For further information, please ask for Chris Hughes 01200 414479

Community Services 3.9.13/Ribchester War Memorial/Chris Hughes/IW

SITE PLAN IN REFERENCE TO AREA

