

WHPC meeting 3rd December 2024
Agenda Item 24/363
Remembrance Sunday 2024

1. **Purpose:** To receive an update on the event on Sunday 10th November 2024 and note any recommendations arising

2. **Background**

For several years the Parish Council has resolved to be responsible for the annual Remembrance Sunday event at the War Memorial. WHPC works closely with personnel from the RBL West Hill branch to prepare for the event:

- The Parish Council has overall responsibility including arranging for a temporary road closure for the safety of all those involved.
- The Act of Remembrance is organised and led by the West Hill branch of the Royal British Legion.

At the WHPC meeting on 2nd July 2024 (24/229), Councillors resolved that WHPC should be the named organiser of the Remembrance Sunday event on 10th November 2024. The 2024-25 budget included £250 for hiring Highways-approved temporary road signs and the Lengthsman's costs.

Attendance by members of the public does not usually exceed 30.

3. **Budget**

The approved budget of £250 was **underspent**. The invoice from the Lengthsman for labour costs and signage was £127.50+VAT – less than expected based on last year's costs. As with last year, the County Highways Authority did not charge anything for the TTRO application.

4. **What worked well**

- The statutory highways notices were posted in advance, in line with regulations, inside the closed sections.
- The road closures and event times were also advertised on the WHPC notice boards and website.
- The marshals and Lengthsman met at 9am in the RBL car park. This allowed time for a briefing and for the signs to be dropped off at each agreed point with time to spare before starting the road closures at 9.30am promptly.
- The plan was for 4 WHPC marshals and 3 RBL marshals (so two people at each point, plus 1 reserve). This provided cover if a marshal was unavailable at short notice.
- Three walkie talkies, on loan from the RBL, worked well and facilitated communication between marshals. We also established that a mobile phone signal was available, thus providing a back-up if needed.
- The roads were reopened at 10.50am.
- Drivers were mostly good-natured about the closed roads and observing the diversions, BUT see learning points below.

5. **Learning points**

- Several vehicles sought access to the RBL car park from the road closure point at Elsdon Lane/West Hill Road. Perhaps a reminder that such drivers should access the School Lane via the junction with Bendarroch Road to avoid vehicles travelling along the full length of the lane.
- A number of drivers on West Hill Road (near Elsdon Lane) chose to turn around rather than take the diversion via Elson Lane/Lower Broad Oak Road.
- Some residents still seem confused by the Armistice Day/Remembrance Sunday timings and several turned up at the war memorial on Sunday at 11am expecting "a Remembrance Service".

Some people prefer to pay their respects at the war memorial at 11am. Perhaps more publicity is needed (a large board placed near the war memorial a few weeks in advance?)

6. For Consideration

- a. Councillors to note the report.
- b. Councillors to formally thank RBL personnel and Martin Jelf for their assistance.
- c. WHPC to ask the RBL branch to remind attendees of arrangements for access to the RBL car park on Remembrance Sunday,

Remembrance Service Working Group

25th November 2024