

REPORT TO ASSETS AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ILLUMINATION OF CENTENNIAL WAR MEMORIAL

Report Reference A-20-10
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Agenda Item 9
Prepared by Planning and Facilities Officer



1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee has previously expressed a desire to increase the prominence of the memorials within Knutsford, most notably the Centennial War Memorial in the library gardens.

As detailed in a previous report there are existing lights at the library gardens which are not suitable for illuminating the memorial as they are positioned towards the wall of the library. The existing electrical supply to these lights could be utilised for a new installation (subject to permission from Cheshire East Council). There is a confirmed fault on the existing installation which may be due to water ingress to the lights; it is presumed the electricity supply to the existing lighting system is functional.

At the previous committee meeting the committee requested the options for illuminating the memorial from above be explored. This report includes the information contained in the previous report to all information needed for a decision to be reached.

2.0 LIGHTING OPTIONS

2.1 SOLAR LIGHTING

A trial solar light was moved to the Centennial War Memorial after being trialled at other locations; whilst this is a notably darker area than other sites the light still had very little impact on the lighting of the memorial and faded quickly.

The electricians quoting for the installations were asked about solar lighting options and remarked that solar-cell technology may not create and maintain sufficient output to illuminate the landmarks.

An option for a solar system would be a two light (300 lumens per light) system with a large (2 no. 67cm x 58cm) solar panel and separate 2 x 12v battery stored in a weatherproof battery box. This is a notably larger system than the single light tried with a large solar panel and battery capacity. The success of the system will greatly depend on the amount of light reaching the panel which in all locations is challenging due to tree cover. The cost for this system is £492.

2.2 STANDARD POWERED LIGHTING - GROUND

The cost for a hard-wired ground-based system with timer and daylight sensor comprising two LED lamps and connected to the existing supply from the library gardens to illuminate the Centennial War Memorial would be £1,370.

The Planning and Facilities Officer further contacted a specialist lighting designer; they quoted for a

hard-wired ground-based system with timer and daylight sensor comprising one induction LED lamp, connected to the existing supply from the library gardens to illuminate the Centennial War Memorial at a cost of £2,440. For this system to include a colour changing LED lamp the price would be approximately £2,590.

2.3 STANDARD POWERED LIGHTING - POLE

In order to illuminate the memorial from above, two poles would need to be installed.

The cost for a hard-wired pole-based system with timer and daylight sensor comprising LED lamps mounted on two four-metre galvanised poles with a hinge mechanism and connected to the existing supply from the library gardens to illuminate the Centennial War Memorial would be £4,965. For the system to include colour changing LED lamps the price rises to £5,345.

The installation of the poles would likely clutter the area and be unsightly. It may also be challenging to install the leftmost pole due to the root protection zone of the mature horse chestnut.

The specialist lighting designer declined to submit a quote for this system due to the impact on the site and potential for damage to the mature trees during installation.

2.4 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Whilst the solar system would be a cheaper alternative for optimum performance it requires the solar cell to be facing southwards and be ideally located at height and in full sun for as long as possible. The site has a number of trees which will reduce the amount of light captured by the cells and there is a higher risk of vandalism.

It is considered that the most suitable system for lighting the Centennial War Memorial is a hard-wired ground-based system. Due to the possible locations to install the necessary poles to light from above there is a high likelihood of damage to the roots of trees and it would likely be detrimental to the setting of a listed building (the memorial).

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider the options for lighting of the memorials as outlined.

The committee has budget within the Council Offices cost centre for the lighting of the war memorial due to the delay in transfer resulting in a projected underspend against budget.

ANNEX A: LIGHTING DESIGN

Below are two computer generated images to represent the extent of the light emitted by the proposed lamp quoted for by a specialist lighting designer. The lamp proposed would be fitted in close proximity to the memorial, resulting in far less overspill of light. The column shown represents the full memorial (inc statue)

The first image represents the intensity of the light against the memorial.

The second image is a mock-up of how the light will illuminate the surrounding environment.

