DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: …Mark Simmons……

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
18/00427/LBC	Replace most-damaged sections of name panels together with replacement hard landscaping and construction of access ramps.	War Memorial Melbourn Street Royston Hertfordshire

Submitted Plan Nos
17.101.SP-100 17.101SP-101 17.101.SE-300 17.101.SZ.402 17.101.SZ.401

1.0 Policies

SECT12	Conserving and enhancing historic enviro
XHE1	Designated Heritage Assets

2.0 **Site History**

2.1 **01/01342/1LB** – Re-building of low brick walls, cleaning of stone, brick and flintwork, installation of damp proof membrane.
CP 15.10.2001

05/01806/1LB – Renewal of sandstone paving and the introduction of rainwater drainage grooved to top surface of pediment.
CCON 27.01.2006

14/03239/1PRE – Repair work required

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 **Royston Town Council** – The Town Council is the applicant, therefore, on this occasion, it is understood that no comment will be forthcoming.

Historic England – *In partnership with the War Memorials Trust, Historic England has produced a number of publications addressing the conservation of war memorials, such as The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials, which can be found on our website (https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/war-memorials/).*

We also suggest that you seek the views of your specialist conservation adviser. It is not necessary for us to be consulted on this application again, unless there are material changes to the proposals. If you would like detailed advice from us, please contact us to explain your request.

War Memorials Trust – No comments received.

Press & site notices – No representations received.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 Royston War Memorial is grade II listed and is located within the Royston Conservation Area. The memorial is described in the list entry as:

War memorial, 1920, by P.Morley Horder, stonework by W.Whitehead of Royston, bronze figures by W.B.Fagan R.B.S. and Mr.Clemons (Clemens) of Clapton. Knapped flint, hand made red brick, Portland stone. Symmetrical, with central pedimented aedicule and memorial tablets in stone flanked by curved brick and flint retaining wall with deep stone parapet. Return walls in brick and flint each have apsidal niche with continuous deep stone plinth, and terminate in paired brick piers with stone copings. Stone paved forecourt with central stone step from pavement, contained by low brick parapet wall with stone coping. Pedimented aedicule surmounted by stone cross. Carved stone panel depicting former soldiery including bowman from Agincourt, an Elizabethan soldier, a Cromwellian ironside, a soldier from the Napoleonic wars, and Thomas Cartwright, scholar, of Royston. Set forward, bronze figure of World War I soldier and bronze Royston crow. Garlanded cartouche to the pediment with Hertfordshire hart. Entablature dated 1914 -1918; flanking panels and base inscribed with names of the fallen. Panel to front commemorating the fallen, 1939-45.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 See description above.

4.3 **Key Issues**

4.3.1 The key issue is to assess the impact of the proposal upon the building's special character and significance. Apart from consideration of Section 12 of the NPPF and Policy HE1 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 (Proposed submission, October 2016), the proposal is also to be considered in terms of Sections 16 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Significance

4.3.2 At 6.0 of the submitted 'Design, Access & Heritage Statement' (hereafter referred to as the DAHS) under the subheading 'Significance' it states the following:

"….. The Royston memorial has particularly significance because of its unusual design, it being recessed into the landscape, and because of its special contribution to the streetscape of Melbourn Street. It also has significance because its architect was one of some note in the post-war architectural scene, and because the memorial includes the name of Harold Ackroyd, a Royston resident and VC".

Principles of Conservation

4.3.3 As stated above, Historic England has drawn attention to the publication entitled 'The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials' prepared in partnership with the War Memorials Trust. This publication covers many aspects and I turn in particular to the 'Principles of Conservation' on page 47 where it states that:

"Conservation of a memorial should never be thought of solely in terms of practical treatment. It is intrinsically linked with the values that we associate with it; establishing these values will affect the degree of intervention that is considered appropriate."

When considering options for practical repair, the guidance states that there are a number of overriding criteria that should be taken into account:

1.0 Only materials which have been demonstrated to be appropriate to the original fabric should be considered. These will normally be the same or similar to the host material. Where this is no longer possible (for example original stone is not available), the technical and aesthetic properties must be compatible with the original

2.0 Any method should aim to be the least interventive to achieve the desired aims; this might mean using a gentle water-based cleaning system rather than an abrasive method

3.0 Interventions should aim to maximise the life expectancy of the memorial while retaining as much of the original fabric as possible. For a memorial, this might mean deciding to retain features if they can be repaired or if they are still performing their function

4.0 Interventions should aim for reversibility (that is they can be removed without having affected the original fabric) although in many cases this may be neither feasible nor practicable

5.0 Interventions should not preclude repeated or other interventions in the future. This concept of 'retreatability' encourages the use of like-for-like repairs, sacrificial repairs and coatings

6.0 All works should be adequately recorded and the records made available to others.

Label stones

4.3.3 The DAHS describes the memorial and indeed the proposed works in some detail and Sections 4.0 and 5.0 ('Design proposals' and 'Accessibility' respectively) are key to understanding the impact of the proposed on the memorial. One significant alteration is the introduction of two new label stones (one over each of the name tablets). At 1.10 of the DAHS it states that *"…Unfortunately no provision was made during the repair projects to protect the name panels from erosion by rainwater from above and this original design defect is the primary reason for their current state of decay. An attempt to correct this by cutting a channel into the coping above (possibly done during the original construction) is completely ineffective…".* At 4.1 of the DAHS it states that the label stones will *"… help to shed rainwater away from the panels and reduce the effects of rain erosion. They will be contained on either side by the projecting stone string course (which was probably originally intended to carry across the name panel) and the pilasters of the central feature....".* In the DAHS's conclusion it states *"… The insertion of projecting label stones above the panels in matching Portland Stone will*

help to protect the panels from further rain erosion. We therefore believe that the proposals are necessary to conserve the stonework from further loss of significance and with the least intervention".

Accessibility

4.3.4 The other significant alteration would be the introduction of two ramps at the front of the memorial. Paragraph 5.0 of the DAHS states that two ramps are *proposed "….to preserve the symmetry and keep the central area open….".* As the ramps are short and height difference is small it is proposed that no handrails or kerbs are introduced as this would spoil the aesthetic of the memorial, but contrasting nosings will be used to help avoid trips and slips. The area of reduced paving in front of the step are proposed to be paved in granite setts and will provide a contrast with the step and the ramps. The ramps will be paved in new York stone.

Recording/cleaning

4.3.5 The DAHS confirms that *"Careful records of all the details and all of the names will be made prior to work commencing and all of the names would then be re-lettered in black stone-painting enamel…."* (see 4.3 of DAHS). At 4.8 of the DAHS it states that *"…on completion, but before the re-lettering, the whole of the stonework will be steam cleaned using the 'DOFF' system".* To ensure that method of cleaning is proportionate to the memorial's condition and to ensure that the historical figures forming the central tableau are not harmed, it is advised that a condition is imposed to allow an opportunity for the Local Planning Authority to inspect a trial area of cleaned stonework. Whilst there is no suggestion in the DAHS that the bronze work is to be cleaned, it is noted at page 58 of the aforementioned guidance that *"…In general, bronze elements of war memorials should always be protected with microcrystalline wax after gentle cleaning with warm water and non-ionic detergent".*

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 The proposal has been publicised and no objections have been received. It is considered that the proposed works will not occasion harm to this grade II listed war memorial or to the Royston Conservation Area, thereby, satisfying Sections 16 & 72 respectively of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the aims of Section 12 of the NPPF and Policy HE1 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (Proposed Submission, October 2016). The proposal is, therefore, considered to be **UNOBJECTIONABLE**.

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That listed building consent be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

1. The work to which this consent relates shall be begun by not later than the expiration of the period of 3 years from the date of this notice.Reason: To comply with the provisions of Section 18 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The names of the fallen within those parts of each tablet to be replaced shall be recorded in written and photographic form and submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to those parts of each name tablet being replaced.Reason: To

safeguard the war memorial's special character.

3. Prior to the commencement of stone cleaning works, the Local Planning Authority shall be notified of the start date for these works, thereby, giving the Local Planning Authority the opportunity to inspect and agree a trial section of stone cleaning. Furthermore, the bronze First World War soldier and Royston Crow shall be protected whilst the stone cleaning works are in progress and any additional cleaning (if specified) for the bronze figures shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of that part of the cleaning works hereby consented.Reason: To safeguard the war memorial's special character.

Signed  Tom Rea Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 11 April 2018	