

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Madeley War Memorial, Junction of Newcastle and Keele Road, (Ref: 13/14011/HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Working Party indicate its views on proposals going to the Planning Committee that:-

A grant of £2,160 be approved for the repair of the War Memorial at Madeley, subject to the appropriate standard conditions

Purpose of report

To inform the Working Party of an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the repair of this structure which is a Grade II Listed Building and give the Working Party an opportunity to express its views on that application.

The War Memorial in Madeley occupies a prominent position on the road junction and represents the fallen of the First World War. Dedicated in 1921, it was added to the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest (Grade II) in September 2013 as a poignant reminder of the impact of the tragic world event on the community and also for its architectural interest as a well executed memorial and a finely detailed sculpture of a First World War soldier. The memorial is constructed from sandstone with a tapered pillar on a stepped based topped by sandstone figure. The parish council and community are keen to carry out the work to repair the structure and this is particularly important given the centenary celebrations taking place over the next 5 years.

As a result of weathering, traffic vibration and ageing of the stone, the memorial needs repairing. It is in need of underpinning due to a significant lean and the plinth requires fixing together to prevent any further movement. It may be required to replace some stone but at this stage until the work begins and the contractors can fully investigate this is not known. The Parish Council are also going to clean the memorial and tidy up the stone wall base and railings.

The total cost of the work is £16,958 including VAT. Eligible costs (excluding cleaning and the railings) are £10,800 including VAT. The works are eligible for grant up to 20% of the total costs. The maximum grant that can be awarded is £5,000.

The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee.

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with approximately £30,000 in the Fund allowing for commitments and the Council's contribution to the Fund for 2013/14.