

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 Planning Committee approves a grant of £2,484 for the repair of the War Memorial at Madeley, subject to the appropriate standard conditions

Purpose of report

To consider an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the repair of this structure which is a Grade II Listed Building.

Introduction

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 on 18th September 2013. It is listed Grade II due to its historic interest 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. It has Second World War additions.

The memorial is constructed from sandstone with a tapered pillar on a stepped based topped by sandstone figure. There has been concern over the structural stability of the memorial for at least 3 or 4 years and the parish council and community are keen to carry out the work to repair the structure. This is particularly important given the centenary celebrations which will be taking place over the next 5 years. As a result of weathering, and ageing of the stone, the memorial needs some attention. 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. It is therefore suggested that a 15% contingency is added to the total cost to deal with these unforeseen costs.

The total cost of the work, including 15% contingency and VAT, is £12,420.

As a building is an historic Statutory listed monument, works eligible for grant funding would normally be the subject of a 20% grant offer. The maximum grant that can be awarded is £10,000.

The Parish Council have taken on the cost of repairing the monument and looking after it and have also applied for funding from the War Memorials Trust (£7,000).

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with approximately £38,000 in the Fund, which allows for current outstanding commitments.

Conclusions

The structure is currently in need of repair and whilst not considered dangerous at present will continue to deteriorate if the movement is not checked it will compromise the future of the monument. The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee who will make the decision on whether or not to award the grant.