

## Lamppost Poppies

### Background

This matter was first debated on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the resolution made at that meeting is detailed below.

**116/19 Remembrance Commemoration 2020 Lamp Post Poppies** - for consideration (at request of Cllr Mellings).

A discussion took place with regard to this and views were expressed that due to the workload of Town Council Staff during the lead up to Remembrance, as they are heavily involved with running the Bonfire and Fireworks Display and organising the Remembrance Parade, they would not be able to take on this extra project. Concerns were also raised over volunteers taking on the role of putting up and taking down the poppies. A suggestion was made that it may be more appropriate to create a small remembrance display in the week up to 11<sup>th</sup> November on the Church Green near the Silent Soldier that would be easier to manage and proved an area to remember and reflect in the lead up to the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**RESOLVED:- not to progress the purchase of Lamp Post Poppies at this time.**

The matter was raised again by a member of the public during the public participation session at the October meeting and Council agreed to re consider its decision at the November 2020 meeting. Below is a report sent to the Town Council that was produced by the member of public who raised the issue in October 2020.

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## Proposal for Remembrance Day Street Adornment

### Introduction:

During the October 2020 virtual Wem Town Council meeting, I joined the meeting during the public participation time and requested if discussion regarding Remembrance Day Adornment in the streets of Wem could be added to the agenda for the November 2020 virtual Wem Town Council meeting. This is due to the fact that I would like the Town Council to reconsider their decision not to fund this back in 2019. I informed you that I would carry out a survey to ascertain the amount of Lamp Post Poppies required to adorn the main roads leading in to Wem including the High Street. Below are my findings:

### Lamp Post Poppies:



**Soulton Road, Aston Street, High Street to Ellesmere Road**

Starting from the Town Boundary on Soulton Road, travelling through town and out to the start of Ellesmere Road, it is estimated that **25** poppies spread out on alternate sides of the road would be required.

**Whitchurch Road & New Street**

Starting from the Town Boundary on Whitchurch Road, travelling along New Street up to the junction with the High Street, it is estimated that **14** poppies spread out on alternate sides of the road would be required.

**Aston Street, Morris Central Shopping Centre & Leek Street**

Starting on the Corner of Aston Street by the White Lion, down into Morris Central Shopping Centre and Back out along Leek Street to the High Street, it is estimated that **10** poppies spread out in this area would be required.

**Mill Street & B5476 towards Harmer Hill**

Starting on the junction of Mill Street and the High Street and St Peter & St Pauls Church, travelling down Mill Street under the railway bridge and out towards Harmer Hill stopping at the Town Boundary just past Robson & Young, it is estimated that **18** poppies spread out on alternate sides of the road would be required.

**Shawbury Road**

Starting from the Town Boundary on Shawbury Road, travelling up to the roundabout by the Railway Bridge on Mill Street it is estimated that **8** poppies spread out on alternate sides of the road would be required.

**Erection of Poppies**

I understand that the staff employed by the Town Council & Councillors are too busy to be in a position to erect the Poppies prior to the act of remembrance and to take them down at the end. I would be happy to carry out this task along with some other volunteers. I am aware that a Health & Safety Risk Assessment would have to be adhered to and would hope that liability insurance for this would be covered under the Town Council insurance.

**Survey Findings**

The total estimated Street Lamp Poppies required for the roads detailed above is **75**. The estimated cost for this at 2020 suggested donation of £3.00 per Poppy is £225.00. It is suggested that the amount of Poppies be increased to **80** to allow a small leeway on the estimated amount. This would increase the cost by £15 to a total of £240.00. These Poppies are made of strong plastic and fitted by use of tie wraps. After Armistice Day, the Poppies can be taken down and stored for use the following year. It is therefore suggested that the Town Council consider funding this act of remembrance for 2021 with the grant of £240 as at 2020 prices. It is also requested that the Town Council agree a £50 per year grant to either add to the available Poppies for each year and also covering any losses or damage.

**Further suggestion for Remembrance High Street Adornment:**

It is further requested that the Town Council consider erecting Remembrance Day flags during the same period. We could perhaps use some existing flagpoles located on the High Street or seek permission from the Christmas Lights Committee to utilise some of their tree brackets for this purpose. The General Poppy Flag could perhaps be flown on the temporary flag pole at the War Memorial. I have made enquiries with a company called Midland Flags, who supply these and also make a donation to The Royal British Legion from the sale of the flags. At 2020 prices they are able to supply 10 x Lest we Forget Flags (5ft x 3ft) at £4.99 each (£49.90) which is a £1.00 saving per flag and a single Poppy Flag (5ft x 3ft) for £9.99. for all flags the total cost at 2020 prices is £59.89. Please see below as the lest we Forget flags are printed for each Service.

**British Army****Royal Navy****Royal Air Force**

26.11.20

Agenda Item 10 Remembrance Street Adornment

**General Poppy**



Thank you for taking time to read through this proposal and if I can be of any further assistance in any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mark Hoffmann