

Agenda Item 17.3

Consideration for not having a physical exhibition to mark 100 years of the War Memorial in Carnegie House

On Monday 20th September, at a staff meeting to discuss planning for Remembrance events, the feasibility of having a physical exhibition to mark 100 years of the War Memorial in Carnegie House was discussed.

Despite the team's best efforts, it has proved very difficult to get enough relevant content for the proposed exhibition. Current and previous research has shown discrepancies between names on the war memorial and those who actually died during the 1st and 2nd World Wars. There are some names on the war memorial where we have very little or no information. There are also very few photographs available to display.

We have acquired exhibition information from Past Lives Museum, regarding those who fell during WWI however the presentation of the information includes text in a very small font and it is not suitable because it is difficult to read and poses accessibility issues. We have asked Cheryl Hart if we could have the information digitally, so we could re-use the information to make professional display boards, however she is not willing to provide the digital files or intellectual property rights to retype the information.

We have contacted local historical societies to ask them to contribute to the exhibition but either have had no response or they have no information to add to what we already have. These organisations include Bridgend and District History Society, Louvain Rees and the Royal British Legion Bridgend Branch.

In addition to this there are some logistical issues to consider:

If the exhibition is to go ahead Bridgend Town Council would be responsible for implementing a full Track and Trace system. The exhibition will need to be manned for the duration of the time it is open to the public and at present we do not have a Front of House person.

Also, due to the closure of Bridgend Festivals Ltd, Bridgend Town Council need to source equipment such as security barriers, marquees, chairs and staging from alternative suppliers. Historically, Bridgend Festivals have delivered these items on the morning of the event, however we have spoken to a number of suppliers that have advised they will need to deliver the barriers for Remembrance weekend on Friday 12th November and we will need to store them securely. They will be erected by our own staff for the events and will be collected on Monday 15th November. Ideally these barriers need to be delivered and stored in Carnegie House, so that the Maintenance Team have easy access to them to set them out for the events on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th November.

There are a number of additional complications with the planning of the Remembrance event this year and we need to consider staff workload in the run up to Remembrance.

An alternative would be to recognise the 100 year Anniversary online using images of the War Memorial that we have collected along with the narrative of how it became to be built.

The exhibition has not been yet been publicised.

Please can Council advise whether to go ahead with an exhibition taking into consideration the factors stated above.

Community Engagement Team