

9 May 2022

Update on the War Memorial relocation project

As all residents are aware the Parish Council as custodian of the War Memorial has resolved to relocate the Grade II listed monument to the Memorial Park. This decision has not been taken lightly but following public consultation and in the interests of public safety and the preservation of the Memorial for the remembrance of those from Finchampstead who died for us.

The project is progressing to plan, and we believe that we will be able to have this year's Remembrance Day service at the Memorial Park with the War Memorial cleaned, restored and in its new surroundings.

We are aware that there are some residents who are not happy with the relocation plans and are now campaigning to have the decision reversed. To that end an anonymous group has circulated a questionnaire which regrettably contains incorrect and biased information. We do not know the legitimacy of its proponents or results. Had this group approached the Parish Council directly earlier we could have advised on the correct information and our timescales which are considerably advanced. We can assure all residents that appropriate and democratic decisions have been taken by those who have been publicly appointed and accountable, and contracts are in place for this work to be carried out over the coming weeks.

While connected to the issue of public and road safety, the junction on which the Memorial currently sits is the responsibility of the Highway Authority and the Parish Council is in active discussion with that Authority with the aim of making significant improvements for the future. At this time we do not have any projected timescales but it remains a high priority for the Parish to resolve.

If you wish to have further information on the project going forward please contact the Parish Council Office (details below) or Councillor Graham Jukes OBE, Chair of the War Memorial Working Group, at Graham.jukes@finchampstead-pc.gov.uk.

Further information on the relocation project can be found at:

<https://www.finchampstead-pc.gov.uk/history/war-memorial/war-memorial-relocation>

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