



**Kettering**  
TOWN COUNCIL

Community • Environment • Heritage

## REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Item No:- ME23/

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Committee:-      | Markets and Events Committee |
| Date:-           | 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024   |
| Author:-         | Martin Hammond, Clerk        |
| Report Title:-   | Remembrance Day 2024         |
| Wards Affected:- | William Knibb                |

### 1. Purpose of Report

To report on discussions with the Royal British Legion (RBL) on the planning for the 2024 Remembrance events

### 2. Recommendations

The committee is asked to endorse the proposed arrangements.

### 3. Information

- 3.1. Officers and Cllr Skinner met with the RBL in mid February to address improvements in the November remembrance day events, but also to address other aspects of their work. The discussions encompassed
- Armed forces day at the end of June
  - D-day commemoration on 6<sup>th</sup> June
  - Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November
  - Armistice Day event 11<sup>th</sup> November
  - The war memorial
- 3.2. For armed forces day, the Council and RBL will jointly be putting on WW2 themed music and facilities at that month's summer Saturday
- 3.3. For D-day the RBL will hold a service in the London Rd cemetery where the war commission graves are located which the Mayor will attend
- 3.4. For Remembrance Day, two issues were discussed
- The difficulty of organising a march on the short stretch of road from the market place to the war memorial

- The difficulty the public have in understanding what is taking place during the laying of wreaths.

It was agreed that the dignitaries, cadets, band and veterans would form up on Gold St rather than the market place, take a salute from outside the Toller Church and then parade to the Market Place. The drumhead would be constructed in the market place and wreaths laid around the drum head, and the service would take place there, where a maximum number of public could watch. The wreaths would be transferred to the war memorial at the end of the service by one of the cadet organisations.

To assist in the understandability of the wreath laying, a RBL member would call forward each wreath layer in turn and announce that organisation on the PA system.

3.5. For Armistice Day, there would be a short service at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November at the war memorial. It would not be expanded to include any more than the usual remembrance day service and would be largely for personal reflection by those who wish to take part.

3.6. The war memorial needs cleaning. NNC was asked to programme that in. They have, in response, undertaken to explore that, but they are also open to a transfer of the memorial to the Town Council. An expression of interest in a community asset transfer has been submitted to test the premise and it will be for Council to determine if they wish to go ahead.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

This report spells out the engagement with the RBL on planning for events in 2024

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

None at this stage

#### **6. Climate Change and Policy Implications**

There are no obvious climate change implications.

The Council's policy is

- a) As a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, to mark and support the work of the armed forces and support former service personnel
- b) to support the economic vitality of the town centre.

#### Background Papers

Notes of meeting with RBL\_\_