

# Remembrance Day events in Walsall



As presented to the Corporate and Public Services  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 October 2016



**Walsall Council**

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## Introduction

The Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) identified the need to consider the potential impact of a change in Police Policy towards assisting with rolling road closures at Remembrance Day events.

To complete this task a small Working Group was established.

## Terms of Reference

Draft terms of reference were discussed and agreed by a meeting of the working group that took place on 19 July 2016. The terms of reference were subsequently agreed by a meeting of the Committee on 26 July 2016.

The full version of the Working Groups terms of reference can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

## Membership

The working group was made up of the following Councillors from the Committee:

Stephen Craddock (Lead Member)	Mike Bird
Carl Creaney	

Further to this three non-voting co-opted members were appointed to the working group for their external expertise in Remembrance Day events. They were:

Councillor Gary Perry, President Pelsall Royal British Legion	Mr Alan Dodsworth, Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser for Pelsall Royal British Legion
Colour Sergeant Thomas Miller, Regimental Support Warrant Officer, Kingstanding MOD. Aldridge Remembrance Day event.	

## Methodology

The Working Group has held 4 meetings during its investigations and engaged in correspondence with the Deputy Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner.

## Witnesses

The Working Group met and discussed issues or received evidence relating to Remembrance Sunday events with the following witnesses:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Method of engagement</b>
David Jamieson	West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner	Letter
Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe	West Midlands Police	Interview and letter
Superintendent Lee Kendrick	West Midlands Police	Interview
Tony Cox	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	Interview
Mark Holden	Head of Clean and Green, Walsall Council and Chair of the Safety Advisory Group	Interview
John Roseblade	Group Manager (Highways and Environment), Walsall Council	Interview
Verity Edwards	Mayor's PA, Walsall Council	Email

## Report Format

This report is a summary of the working group's findings and conclusions.

## **Context**

The Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an interim report at its meeting held on 8 September 2016. At this time, it had just been announced that Walsall Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) would jointly fund traffic management costs for Remembrance Day events in Walsall for 2016.

The Working Group welcomes this funding and appreciates the commitment of both the Council and PCC to support Remembrance Day events in 2016.

At the meeting, a number of concerns were expressed as to how the events would take place using traffic management companies rather than relying on the Police to assist with rolling road closures. The Committee was reassured that clarity would evolve following a special meeting of the Safety Advisory Group on 16 September 2016.

## **Special Safety Advisory Group**

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) is a specialist advisory body that oversees the safety arrangements for public events. On 16 September 2016 the SAG met to consider applications for Remembrance Day events.

A total of 11 applications were received for the following areas:

- a) Pelsall Remembrance Service
- b) Aldridge Remembrance Parade & Service
- c) Brownhills Remembrance Parade
- d) Darlaston Remembrance Sunday
- e) Moxley Remembrance Service & Wreath Laying
- f) Short Heath Remembrance Sunday
- g) Walsall Wood Remembrance Parade
- h) Streetly Remembrance Parade
- i) Walsall Town Centre Remembrance Parade
- j) Bloxwich Armistice Day Parade
- k) Willenhall Poppy Appeal and Parade

Following the SAG meeting the Chair of the SAG met with the Working Group and informed Members that all event organisers were made aware of the requirements needed in order for an event to take place. This included an appropriate traffic management plan and public liability insurance.

### *Traffic management*

At the SAG all Remembrance Day event organisers were informed of the commitment by the Council and the PCC to pay for traffic management companies to manage road closures for 2016. Event organisers were informed that they were able to use any traffic management company they wished to employ. They were also given the opportunity to engage with the Councils partner, Tarmac, who had agreed to assist event organisers with identifying suitable traffic management companies to work with.

Of the 11 events 10 are parades that require traffic management. 7 parade organisers met up with Tarmac on 26 September 2016. 3 parades had already found their own traffic management company. The remaining 1 event does not require traffic management.

Once traffic management companies had been identified, the organisers are then required to submit detailed plans to the Councils Highways Department. The Highways Department are then required to ensure their suitability before arranging the necessary legal notices.

### *Public Liability Insurance*

All Remembrance Day events are required to have suitable Public Liability Insurance (PLI) in place.

It has since come to light that any event affiliated to the Royal British Legion (RBL) will be covered by the RBLs PLI. Any events not affiliated to the RBL would have to make their own arrangements for PLI

## **Working Group Comments**

Following the above feedback the Working Group are reassured that, as of the end of September, all 11 Remembrance Day events for 2016 are on target to be delivered subject to the final sign off of traffic management plans and production of valid PLI.

The one remaining concern for 2016 is that it is not yet clear as to how costs for traffic management companies will be claimed from the PCC and Council. The Working Group are conscious that the cash flow for some event organisers will be minimal and would prefer a process to be developed whereby traffic management company invoices could be forwarded directly to the PCC/Council for payment rather than have to be paid by event organisers who would then have to be refunded.

## **2017 Onwards**

Now the Working Groups principal concern is the sustainability of Remembrance Day events in 2017 and beyond. The financial support offered for 2016 is pleasing and welcomed but the working group believe that the majority of events are, potentially, unsustainable should they be required to pay for traffic management in the future.

To this end the Working Group are going to pursue a two pronged approach at a local and national level.

## **National**

The working group are now planning to discuss the situation that has arisen in Walsall directly with the Home Secretary.

## **Local**

The Working Group welcomes the funding agreement that has emerged between the PCC and Council with regard to funding traffic management for 2016.

The Working Group recommends that this partnership continues in future.

In terms of how this support should be funded the Working Group recommend to the PCC that financial support is provided through the annual PCC precept charged to local people.

With regard to the Council, the Working Group believe that funding to support traffic management for Remembrance Day events could be found through top-slicing the monies allocated for local projects through Area Panels.

## **Conclusion**

The Working Group believe that ensuring that those who have lost their lives in conflict are remembered is highly important and, even in these austere times, the PCC and Council should do what they can to ensure they continue long into the future.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. A process be developed whereby traffic management companies employed to assist with Remembrance Day events in 2016 claim their costs directly from Walsall Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner;**
- 2. In order to ensure their long term sustainability Walsall Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner continue to jointly fund the traffic management costs of Remembrance Day events in Walsall from 2017 onwards. In order to meet this cost:**
  - a. Walsall Council should consider top slicing the Area Panel Project Funding budget;**
  - b. The Police and Crime Commissioner should meet the cost through his council tax precept.**
- 3. The working group seek an audience with the Home Secretary to discuss the situation that has arisen in Walsall;**

- 4. The working group continues to meet until a sustainable solution to meeting the costs of the traffic management costs of Remembrance Day events has been identified and agreed.**



## TERMS OF REFERENCE

<b>Work Group Name:</b>	Remembrance Day Parade Working Group
<b>Committee:</b>	Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Municipal Year:</b>	2016/17
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Stephen Craddock
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	
<b>Support Officer:</b>	Craig Goodall
<b>Membership:</b>	Cllr Carl Creaney Cllr Mike Bird
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	Cllr Gary Perry Thomas Miller Alan Dodsworth
<b>1. Context</b>	<p>West Midlands Police have recently made the decision to not provide assistance with road closures at Remembrance Day Parades.</p> <p>In 2015 Walsall held 11 Remembrance Day Parades that could be affected by the change in Police policy.</p>
<b>2. Objectives</b>	<p><b>What do you want it to achieve? It is important to have clearly defined outcomes at the start to give the working group direction and ensure it adds value.</b></p> <p>The working group wish to understand what impact the Police's decision has on the 11 Remembrance Day parades in detail, identify potential ways forward for the whole borough and create a defined process for the future.</p>
<b>3. Scope</b>	<p><b>What should be included and excluded?</b></p> <p>The working group wish to understand what roles are played by different organisations and individuals.</p> <p>What does the law say around traffic management and road closures?</p> <p>Are there potential alternative methods of delivering a suitable act of remembrance?</p> <p>The working group accept that the Council should not have to accept responsibility to provide the service for moving road closures in lieu of the Police.</p>
<b>4. Equalities Implications</b>	<p><b>There is a legal and moral obligation to ensure that, when undertaking a scrutiny review, the impact of policies; procedures; strategies and activities is considered within the 6 strands of equality (Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sexual Orientation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>How will the working group consult with each of these six groups</b></li> </ul>

	<p>regarding this review and its outcomes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an EIA has been carried out for this service\policy then what were its outcomes? Can this be mapped into the review? If no EIA has been carried out by the service is one required and can this be reported to the working group?</li> </ul> <p>The working group will ensure that any of their recommendations do not have a negative impact on local people due to their age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.</p>									
<b>4.</b>	<b>Who else will you want to take part?</b>									
	<p>Think about who else, other than lead officers and members, it would be useful to include either as part of the working group or to bring information at specific points. For example- partners, stakeholders, other authorities.</p> <p>Louisa Rolfe – Deputy Chief Constable, West Midlands Police  Parade organisers  Steve Griffiths – Walsall Council, Highways  Mayor’s Office  British Legion  Other areas – South Staffs  MPs</p>									
<b>5.</b>	<b>Timescales &amp; Reporting Schedule</b>									
	<p>Needs to be completed within the same municipal year and so should be able to report to full panel by the last meeting at the latest but consider the subject- is there anything else that it may need to tie into (e.g. academic or financial year or to coincide with national/sub-regional developments)  How often will update be provided to full panel?</p> <p>Terms of reference to be presented to Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 July 2016.</p> <p>Final report and recommendations to be presented to the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 September 2016.</p>									
<b>6.</b>	<b>Risk factors</b>									
	<p>Are there any obstacles that can be predicted? For example, is it dependent on other organisations outside your control and duty to cooperate? Identifying these factors early and how they will be mitigated should help minimise their impact.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 1814 1302 2033"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="252 1814 603 1854">Risk</th> <th data-bbox="603 1814 954 1854">Likelihood</th> <th data-bbox="954 1814 1302 1854">Measure to Resolve</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="252 1854 603 1998">Short timescale preventing working group speaking to all necessary parties</td> <td data-bbox="603 1854 954 1998"><b>HIGH</b></td> <td data-bbox="954 1854 1302 1998">Set a schedule of meetings to invite witnesses too</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="252 1998 603 2033"></td> <td data-bbox="603 1998 954 2033"></td> <td data-bbox="954 1998 1302 2033">Seek written</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve	Short timescale preventing working group speaking to all necessary parties	<b>HIGH</b>	Set a schedule of meetings to invite witnesses too			Seek written
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			submissions from witnesses	
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Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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