

Ms Rachael McMurray
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX

Our ref: WM7328
Your ref: APP/16/00707



9th August 2016

**Havant War Memorial (WM7328) - Variation of Condition 2 of Listed Building Consent
APP/16/00707**

Thank you for providing War Memorials Trust (WMT) with the opportunity comment on the variation of condition 2 of Listed Building Consent APP/16/00707 for Havant war memorial. I have enclosed our thoughts on variation below and am happy to provide any further comments should you feel it is necessary.

Addition of names

The addition of names to war memorials is one of the most complex subjects which WMT is contacted about. In general we advise custodians that any addition of names to war memorials must be undertaken in a sympathetic manner to avoid altering the architectural significance of a war memorial. This is because adding names with different materials to those used originally, or in a different typeface, can detract from the overall aesthetic value of a war memorial which will have been intentionally designed to record the names of those who lost their lives. A local example of where this advice has been heeded is Fareham war memorial outside Holy Trinity Church on West Street where names have been added in the same font.

WMT regularly receives enquiries from members of the public where names have been added in an unsympathetic style either using inappropriate materials, which later cause damage to the war memorial, or typefaces which detract significantly from a memorial's architectural value. As such WMT is very hesitant to advocate the addition of names in an authentic manner.

WMT's initial advice regarding this project was to reject the application on the basis that the new plaques would make the war memorial appear cluttered and affect its elegant design. WMT feel this is something Havant Borough Council should consider in the future should they wish to add any further names. However, we are also pleased to see that the council are responding to requests by members of the public to ensure those who lost their lives in conflict continue to be commemorated.

Post-WWII Plaques

After being invited to comment on the application to vary condition 2 of Listed Building Consent APP/16/00707, WMT organised a site visit with the custodian of the war memorial to provide a more detailed response. Having looked at the plaques, there are the following inconsistencies between the WWII and Post-WWII plaques:

- The typeface is not the same
- The colour (patina) of the plaques is brown as opposed to black, although this may weather slightly over time
- The size of the lettering for the regiment and rank of each individual commemorated is not in the same proportion to the name as per the WWII plaques
- There are no commas after the names as per the WWI and WWII plaques

Replication issues

One of the issues which has arisen as part of the project to replicate the original WWII plaques is the difficulty of producing a similar design. Following discussions with the Estates Team, WMT is aware that considerable effort has been made to find a way to match the original plaques as close as possible.

The majority of bronze plaques are now produced using standard typefaces with a computer, which would have been done by hand when the WWII plaques were originally added to the war memorial. This would very much have depended on the skill of the original engraver and could potentially be difficult to replicate.

WMT has been involved in a number of cases previously where an original typeface has been reproduced. However, in these instances the plaques were cast bronze plaques with raised lettering as opposed to engraved plaques. As a result, it may be difficult to reproduce the original typeface.

Historic addition of plaques

WMT's advice regarding adding names to war memorials is based on the principle that names from subsequent conflict have been added in the same style as the First World War names. This is the case at Fareham war memorial where names were inscribed on inset stone panels in the same typeface. However, at Havant the WWII names were engraved onto bronze plaques as opposed to the original cast plaques. As a result, Havant war memorial has a history of authentic addition of names for subsequent conflicts. If the plaques which are being considered as part of this Listed Building Consent application were for further WWII names WMT would advise these must be in the same style.

WMT feel that this history of authentic addition of names should be taken into account in response to the request to vary condition 2. The addition of dissimilar WWII plaques following the end of the war provides a precedent for adding plaques in an authentic manner which avoids adversely affecting the architectural significance of the war memorial. It should be

noted that if these WWII plaques were cast in bronze as opposed to engraved, WMT would insist these should be in the same style.

Decision

Based on the above comments, WMT do not wish to raise any objections to the variation of condition 2 of Listed Building Consent application APP/16/007/07. Although we do not think the current situation is ideal there is an acceptable rationale behind adding additional plaques in an authentic style.

If the Planning Committee decide to object to the variation of condition 2, WMT would be happy to provide further comments on any proposed design of the plaques or other issues which are subsequently raised. If I can provide any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Reynolds
Conservation Officer