

APP/15/01356

Havant War Memorial Plaques

Dear Rachael

As one of the three members of Havant History Group involved in preparing the application to get the Havant War Memorial listed in 2013, I am writing to object to APP/15/01356 in its present form.

Although the Havant War Memorial was handed over to the Urban District Council at the dedication ceremony on 30 September 1922, it must be remembered that it really 'belongs' to the people of Havant. In the appeal letter of February 1922 everyone with an interest in Havant was asked to contribute, so that it would be *a Memorial of the whole town*. It was constructed free of debt at a cost of £435.

As it was built as a town memorial consideration should be given as to whether it is appropriate to include men from Emsworth, a different town, where two of the men proposed for the Havant memorial are already remembered in the 2006 Emsworth Memorial Garden.

Lettering

The application states that the lettering will match in size the lettering on the World War Two plaques. However, the lettering on the plaque shown in the plans measures 11 mm and 9 mm in height, whereas the lettering on the WW2 plaques is 13 and 10/11 mm. The reduced size may have been done to make room for an additional name on the first plaque but it appears to have led to an ill-match and to overcrowding.

Materials

As the bronze on the WW1 plaques is different in colour from the metal used in the WW2 plaques the application should show an image as well as a description of the material to be used in the proposed plaques. They would be parallel to the WW2 plaques and need to match them exactly. Normally details are agreed with HBC but as this is an 'in-house' application the materials should be shown online.

Second Plaque

I know of no reason why the public should be prevented from seeing an image of the second plaque. What can there be to hide? We should be able to see the current proposed layout, how it balances up with the first plaque and how much room will be left for additional names. Also, will it have a separate heading? We are told that the wording will not materially affect the character of the listed memorial but it will if it is inconsistent in style, as the first plaque still is. Please could an image of the second plaque be included in the application documents, as it will involve the removal of a

generic plaque erected, I am told, c.2000, at the request of a soldier who had served in Northern Ireland.

Plaque Headings

Although not part of the application the heading chosen for the plaques is open to question. I personally feel that if men from the whole borough are to be included on the plaques then Havant Borough should come first (minus the brackets) as the dates belong to the names. Alternatively, Havant Borough on its own would suffice, as the date of death has now been added to each casualty.

1945 ONWARDS

(HAVANT BOROUGH)

HAVANT BOROUGH

POST 1945

might be better or just HAVANT BOROUGH.

Unfortunately, it seems that proper notice has not been taken of the representations to the first application, which addressed some of the errors and inconsistencies in the Design and Access Statement and the names on the plaque. It is hard to understand how one name in the first application came to be 'corrected' but is still wrong, when we have been told in your Press Release that *local historians have been heavily involved*. Also, no self-respecting historian would have described the eminent ecclesiastical architect for the memorial, Sir Charles Archibald Nicholson Bt FRIBA, as '*Nicholson Bart*'. They certainly would not have repeated the gaffe in the second application.

It is surprising that the next-of-kin have not yet been tracked down. They might well feel aggrieved when they discover that all this is being done without their being consulted early on in the project. It begs the question as to how the men 'qualify' to go on the War Memorial. Who are they? This has not been made clear to members of the public. The very thorough War Memorial Trust representation to the first application requests that a proper period of consultation is carried out. This might well produce more names and could mean that there is not room on the memorial for all of them, and that the plaque/s should be sited elsewhere.

In light of the inadequate research carried out, so far, how can the public be reassured that we have the right names for the memorial plaque/s? Should, for example, Kenneth Evans, who was reported in the papers as living in Waterlooville when he was killed in action in 1982, also be included on the memorial, or should it be up to the next-of-kin where their loved ones are commemorated?

The integrity of the Havant War Memorial has already been compromised by the addition of the WW2 and Post 1945 plaques, so it could be argued that the addition of another plaque would not make too much impact. However, if listed building permission is granted the public needs to feel certain that the best research possible will be undertaken to decide the final wording on the plaques. There are researchers in the Havant History group, based at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, (with members from Havant U3A and links to historians in the rest of the Borough), who have not yet been formally consulted. Their expertise at tracing next-of-kin very speedily could be used by Havant Borough Council, so that not only is this a Community project but the resulting plaques are the best that they can be.

Yours sincerely

Ann Griffiths

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