

"A Living Memorial"

Project Summary - The Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne

Subject	Current Status (as at 10.10.2020)
Purpose of the project	To ensure that the views of the communities in Sittingbourne are considered in matters relating to the maintenance and management of The Avenue of Remembrance.
Why?	To ensure that the original intent of the Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne as being a lasting visual 'Living Memorial' to those who gave their lives will continue to be maintained for the benefit of the community. 275 local men who died in WW1 and WW2 and who are commemorated on Avenue of Remembrance Sittingbourne.
Lead Organisers	Swale Borough Council - Richard Palmer, Cabinet Member for Community and Lyn Newton (Economy & Community Services Regeneration Manager)
Delivery Partners	Cllr. John Wright (Kent County Council), Malcolm Moore (Sittingbourne Society), Sue Gent (The Royal British Legion -Sittingbourne and Milton Regis branch), Richard Emmett (Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne (HRGS), Sittingbourne Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Clubs and lead Sittingbourne War Memorials project), Stephen Palmer (local resident/campaigner) and Ellen Matson (local resident/campaigner).
Summary of Review	<p><u>Trees:</u> Our observations are that 14 trees require immediate attention, with many others likely to be damaged by tree guards if the design is not improved. Tree work is in progress by KCC.</p> <p><u>Plaques:</u> The group is trying to agree a design for the upgrading for new plaques, and tree guards. Our observations are that ideally all tree guards should have a uniformity to them. Street furniture styles are under review.</p> <p><u>Plinth</u> Update existing group memorial plinth, and replace with an enhanced plinth, to include the missing four names and the updated spelling of Irvin.</p> <p><u>App</u> To engage with local schools and academies to produce an app for mobile phone use and record the histories of each man's story, by using a QR code on individual plaques, to enable the research completed by HRGS on each of the men's lives to be shared with the public.</p>
Date for Event	Review started in 5.3.2020 – ongoing reviews planned.
Costs	Unknown currently, till exact plaque styles are agreed.
Grants & Funds	Funding is being sought. £3000 raised to date.
Where / When to publicise?	A holding statement regarding the project to be added to SBC and HRGS website to keep the public informed with a short press release for the media.