

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 12TH MAY 2010

SUBJECT: NIMROD MEMORIAL

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To ask the Council to consider a request for permission to erect a memorial stone in Forres to commemorate the lives lost when a RAF Kinloss Nimrod crashed in Afghanistan in 2006.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section (I) (4) of the Council's Administration Scheme relating to a matter not previously considered under the terms of delegation to a Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council consider the request for the Nimrod Memorial to be sited adjacent to the Forres War Memorial.**
- 2.2 **It is further recommended that should the Council approve the siting, approval be on the basis that, due to the sensitivity of the location, the Council's Environmental Protection Manager administers the contract and supervises the construction of the Memorial.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has been approached, by representatives of the families who lost loved ones in the Nimrod aircraft crash in Afghanistan on 2nd September 2006, to give permission to erect a Memorial in one of the Council's Public Parks or Gardens in Forres.
- 3.2 The original site requested was the Grant Park, but concerns were expressed by Officers and Local Elected Members that a precedent might be set by allowing a Memorial Stone in such a major park which is renowned for its floral attractions and is a traditional park, used for a range of recreational activities.
- 3.3 The families have considered alternative sites and would now seek permission to locate the Memorial on an area of landscaped ground adjacent to the Forres War Memorial as identified on **Appendix I**.
- 3.4 The Memorial being proposed would be a fourteen-sided cairn constructed from whinstone and sandstone measuring 1.52 metres in height and a total width across the base of 1.6 metres.
- 3.5 The full costs associated with the construction and installation of the Memorial will be paid for from donations received by the families following the crash.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

None.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Financial – All capital construction costs will be funded, but arrangements would have to be agreed with the families regarding long term maintenance of the Memorial.

An underground utilities check will be undertaken and this may have a bearing on the siting of the Memorial.

Risks – The Memorial will have to be located in such a way that it does not cause any obstruction during the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the War Memorial.

Staffing and Property – None.

(d) Consultations

The Local Elected Members for the Forres Ward are aware of the contents of the Report and accept that the site requested could be suitable for the Memorial.

The Community Council for the Royal Burgh of Forres, the Forres Area Forum and the Royal British Legion (Forres Branch) have been consulted. The written responses from the Community Council and Royal British Legion are shown on **Appendix II**. It is anticipated that a verbal update on the Area Forum response will be available at the meeting.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Local Elected Members accept that the area adjacent to the Forres War Memorial could be a suitable site for the erection of the Nimrod Memorial.

5.2 The Community Council has no objection to the proposal, but the Royal British Legion has raised some concerns.

5.3 The specific location of the Memorial is crucial and if the Council agree to permission being granted, it should be under the condition that

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contract administration and site supervision will be undertaken by the Council's Environmental Protection Section.

Author of Report: I D Bruce, Environmental Protection Manager - 7040
Background Papers: None
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