

Open Report on behalf of Keith Ireland, Chief Executive

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 November 2018
Subject:	Lincolnshire Remembrance Project

Summary:

This report summarises the outcomes achieved through completing the Lincolnshire Remembrance and Memories and Memorials project. The project was commissioned by the Council's Places Team, using match funding to lever in resources from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Armed Forces Covenant. An important part of the project consisted of working with communities across the county to support commemoration activities throughout the World War I centenary period.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is required to:

1. Consider and comment on the outcomes and successes of the Lincolnshire Remembrance Project to support volunteers in recording war memorials.
2. Consider and comment on the extent to which the Lincolnshire Memories and Memorials Project has engaged and worked with young people to produce trails, websites and learning resources which they have shared with their local communities.
3. Endorse the County Council's continued role in commissioning and supporting heritage activities.

1. Background

The Council's Places Team (Historic Environment) has been working with communities across Lincolnshire to promote a deeper understanding of the structures commemorating the county's war dead, the information revealed about those commemorated and to promote engagement with and access to these important elements of local heritage.

The two projects Lincolnshire Remembrance project and Lincolnshire Memories and Memorials project were funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Armed Forces Covenant Fund and Lincolnshire County Council.

Lincolnshire Remembrance Project 2014- 2016:

War memorials are a familiar feature of villages and towns, yet their enormous social, cultural and historical significance is often overlooked or little understood. Researching and recording local memorials in their various forms created a starting point for the Lincolnshire Remembrance project to encourage communities and individuals to further explore and research the history behind the memorials and the individuals each memorial remembers.

The project was developed by the Places team of Lincolnshire County Council, principally by Sarah Grundy, part of whose remit is to care for historic buildings and who is also the designated War Memorials Officer for the County. This meant the project was well placed to support communities in the recording of, and research into the history of their war memorials. Cathryn Pike was appointed as the project officer. She has experience of digital heritage projects, is an experienced local history researcher and was also involved in her local community at Parish Council level. This meant that the project team was able to share a wealth of valuable knowledge with participants. The team also benefitted from a knowledgeable and supportive steering group and the many connections that Sarah Grundy had developed through her work. In addition the project has benefitted from the sharing of years of research and recording carried out by a small group of dedicated volunteers led by Charles Anderson.

Lincolnshire Remembrance Project aimed to support volunteers in recording each war memorial as well as researching the story of each person named on Lincolnshire's memorials. There are around 23,000 people remembered by name in Lincolnshire. Although it is difficult to identify everyone accurately, where possible we have recorded each individual's story using documentary sources and family recollections. Our database on Lincs to the Past is a 21st Century memorial as well as a valuable resource for schools, communities and families to help them discover more about those who sacrificed their lives for our continued freedom. (<https://www.lincstothepast.com/home/lincolnshire-remembrance/>)

Lincs to the Past was chosen as the host website for the Lincolnshire Remembrance database as it is focussed on giving access to the Council's heritage collections. It is an on-going project, and the website will be maintained and supported for the foreseeable future. It means that long-term curation of the war memorials materials is assured. This includes the educational resources and exhibition materials developed through the project. The web pages have been designed to be accessible in the future and updated where resources allow.

Funding: Total £146,000 (£76,000 from HLF, £40,000 from AFCC and £30,000 from LCC)

Lincolnshire Memories and Memorials Project 2016 - 2018:

The aim of the Lincolnshire Memories and Memorials project was to engage young people in discovering more about how 20th century conflict affected families and communities in Lincolnshire. This project followed on from the Lincolnshire Remembrance Project.

The information collected by the Lincolnshire Remembrance project and the continuing support of volunteers involved in this previous project has greatly contributed to the success of the Lincolnshire Memories and Memorials project.

369 young people from age 7 up to age 25 have been immersed in the project. A further 460 young people participated in exhibitions and events and visits to museums arranged as part of the project. The majority of the young people involved in the project were already in a structured group from schools to cadet groups and NCS citizenship groups. This meant that the adult leaders of each group supported and engaged with the project too. Around 20 volunteers have supported the project with historical information, sharing artefacts, films and photographs and their own research. Another 25 elderly members of local communities shared their memories of their experiences during times of conflict.

One of the core activities was training young people to record oral histories and 16 oral history testimonies of war-time in Lincolnshire have been recorded, some with film and some as sound recordings. The young people and the older people involved with this have found it to be a very valuable experience, bridging the gap that is sometimes apparent between generations. In addition to the impact of the stories told, the young people involved have enhanced their interviewing skills and learnt how to use new equipment.

Young people were challenged to create trails in their local area which would tell some part of the story of how war affected the people in that area. The young people were supported in the research, map making, writing instructions and assessing the routes. A designer was then used to give a professional finish to the young people's work and the trails were then printed and distributed widely across local communities.

The starting point for many of the activities was the local war memorial and several young people's groups carried out condition assessments of the war memorial and looked at the listing process. The project sponsored heritage skills workshops on stained glass and stone carving and attracted young people from age 13 to 25 from across the county. The heritage skills workshops were another way of getting young people to think about the monuments in their local communities and the skills needed to create them.

The activities undertaken during the project have produced very good results both tangibly and in terms of the learning and experiential outcomes for the participants. The project prompted the children to think about remembrance and sacrifice and it was very clear that the children understood and empathised. The project aimed to bring out the human stories, to show the real impact of conflicts and the children

really took this to heart. The oral history recording activities were a particular testament to this.

The project has built bridges and made new relationships in communities which can be strengthened by the further activities that groups have been inspired to do; for example at Caistor, the cadets were concerned about the war memorial and asked to do a condition survey which they then presented to the Town Council. Birchwood Junior School has stated they will mirror the activities completed this year for next year's cohort.

The children have learnt new skills and improved their knowledge. Literacy skills particularly in speaking and listening were visibly enhanced for those involved in the oral history recording and writing skills were enhanced for those composing trails. All the children were involved in research and discovery of a subject that they knew very little about and being able to relate it to their local area and local people rather than it just being facts and figures to learn made the war-time history they learnt very real.

Funding: Total £102,800 (£59,000 from HLF, £20,000 from AFCC and £23,800 from LCC)

2. Conclusion

These projects have demonstrated that our local heritage can provide a unique vehicle to engage and bring together local communities. It can provide opportunities for real life education, building and improving skills, cross-generational interaction and for enhancing health and well-being. The new information shared through these projects can help communities to value and care for the heritage assets in their local area, and even support local economies. The County Council's continued role in commissioning and supporting heritage activities is crucial.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risk assessments were carried out for individual activities.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Cathryn Pike, who can be contacted on 01522 554959 or Cathryn.pike@lincolnshire.gov.uk.