

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

LEDBURY WAR MEMORIAL

Ledbury Town Council held an extraordinary meeting of Council on 31 August and 21 October 2021.

At the August meeting Councillors were provided with a report from their Technical Advisers in respect of the recent works carried out and it was agreed that the Council should enter into discussions, via their solicitors, with the contractor with a view to making good a number of issues in relation to the works. These discussions are on-going, and the Council will provide any further updates on this situation in due course.

The report provided to Councillors highlighted potential safety risks that needed to be inspected in respect of trip hazards and the obelisk. Risk assessments and inspections have been carried out to both of these areas by qualified structural engineers and health and safety advisers and they have confirmed that the obelisk does not appear to pose any immediate danger to the public, however it has been identified that there is a potential trip hazard at the base of the War Memorial where the drainage system has been installed.

At the meeting on 21 September Councillors were provided with this information and requested to consider how this could be managed safely and so as to avoid the War Memorial being fenced off until such time the repairs could be carried out. It was agreed that flower planters should be purchased and placed at the points of the War Memorial where there is a potential risk hazard, and these are being sourced as a priority.

Ledbury Town Council are working closely with the Herefordshire Conservation Officers and their technical advisors to ensure that the repairs to the works carried out are managed appropriately and in line with all legal requirements to ensure a satisfactory conclusion to this matter.

As many of you are aware the majority of the cost of the initial refurbishment works were paid for by a generous donation from Mr Heaton, who is himself a World War II Veteran. The Council have corresponded with Mr Heaton to keep him informed of the issues with the repair work and he has responded, acknowledging the situation and frustration that must be felt by the Council and the residents of the town.

We would ask that members of the public bear with us in respect of this matter. The Council understand the frustration of members of the public and would like to assure you that Councillors share that frustration, but it is important that we follow due process and sometimes this does mean that some discussions must be held in confidential session to avoid compromising the Council's position. We will provide regular updates on this situation as and when we are able to.

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