

Report on Meeting with the Royal British Legion: Memorial Bench Installation

Date: August 10th, 2023, Time: 10:30 a.m.

Attendees:

- Deputy Town Clerk
- Ian Thomas (Royal British Legion, Cowbridge)
- Dave Morris (Royal British Legion, Cowbridge)
- Mayor Malcolm Wilson (For the final 10 minutes of the meeting),

Introduction: On August 10th, 2023, at 10:30 AM, a meeting was convened between the Deputy Town Clerk and representatives from the Royal British Legion Cowbridge, namely Ian Thomas and Dave Morris. The primary agenda of the meeting was to discuss the potential installation of one or two memorial benches outside the Town Hall with financial support from the Royal British Legion.

Discussion Points:

1. **Memorial Bench Installation:** The Royal British Legion expressed their interest in financially supporting the installation of memorial benches outside the Town Hall. The aim of this initiative was to commemorate the contributions of veterans.
2. **Concerns About Pride Decorations:** During the meeting, it was brought to the attention of the Deputy Town Clerk that some members of the British Legion had reservations about including pride decorations near the benches. Concerns were raised about the potential incompatibility of these decorations with the town hall's existing aesthetic, which is perceived as being bright.
3. **Proximity to the War Memorial:** Both parties acknowledged the sensitivity of placing pride decorations in close proximity to the war memorial. The importance of preserving the solemnity and respect associated with war memorials was highlighted.
4. **Alternative Options:** To address the concerns raised, the possibility of not having a curtain over the Town Hall door or considering pride-related painting on the path near the benches was discussed. It was clarified that the land where the benches would be placed is owned by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
5. **Involvement of the Town Hall Committee:** The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to convey the concerns about excessive decorations to the Town Hall Committee. This step was intended to gauge the broader community's sentiment and ensure that any decision concerning decorations aligns with community preferences.
6. **No Objection to Pride:** It was emphasised by the representatives of the Royal British Legion that they held no objections to the concept of pride itself but felt that its presence in close proximity to a war memorial could be perceived as disrespectful.
7. **Proposal for Two Benches:** The Royal British Legion expressed their preference for installing two memorial benches and indicated their willingness to present this proposal to the Town Council. They also inquired about the possibility of the town council making a financial contribution to the project.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded with a commitment to engage in further discussions and consultations regarding the installation of memorial benches outside the town hall. The Deputy Town Clerk will communicate the concerns regarding decorations to the Town Hall Committee. The Royal British Legion will present their proposal for two benches and

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potential financial support to the Town Council. The goal is to find a suitable balance that honours veterans while respecting the sanctity of the war memorial and aligning with community preferences. Any developments related to this project will be communicated as they unfold.