

APPENDIX 3 REVIEW OF THE LOCAL LIST - CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT REPORT

This report outlines the measures taken to gain the views of key stakeholders and the many communities of Tower Hamlets, summarises the responses to the consultation undertaken, and sets out the Council's response to the representations received.

The consultation and engagement approach

The approach to consultation has been developed to be in conformity with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (2012). The overarching aim for consultation is to provide an opportunity for involvement from a wide range of local stakeholders, community groups and individuals.

In undertaking community involvement, the core principles which have governed the approach to consultation are provided below:

Appropriate to the level of planning issue and the type of document being consulted on;

From the beginning, giving people the opportunity to shape the documents and make it their own;

A continuous process and not just a one off event;

Clear and straightforward by using methods suitable to the communities being consulted; and

Planned as a central part of the planning and plan making process.

The designation of the war memorials is a straightforward process with well understood immediate implications for landowners, but wider and significant implications to all communities in commemoration; it was important that the community and key stakeholders and owners had the opportunity to get involved. Whilst the draft list for consultation was as complete as possible, officers were also aware that further memorials may exist; so as well as commenting on the proposals consultation offered; there was the opportunity of suggesting further war memorials for consideration, where the Council's survey had omitted them

How we involved the local community and key stakeholders

Careful consideration was given to the most appropriate means of seeking views. It was agreed that the consultation should be as wide and inclusive as possible. The modesty of the proposals and lack of complexity suggested that a public meeting was unnecessary and that a wide written consultation would be effective, provided that owners and key stakeholders were contacted directly and that the proposals were widely advertised.

The consultation process

Owners and other key stakeholders were contacted by letter, setting out the proposals, where additional details could be found and how they could respond.

The proposals were also placed on the Council's website, with a banner headline on the homepage outlining the consultation and an advertisement placed in East End Life. In addition, the proposals were available in all the Councils libraries and Ideas Stores.

The consultation process allowed consultees to consider the War Memorials proposed for local listing and offered the opportunity to identify any omissions -other Memorials which are not presently known about. It also allowed review of the buildings to be removed from the list.

Responses could be made in writing, by e-mailing the Council, in person by meeting officers or by telephone.

Consultation took place over a six week period between the 2nd December 2013 and the 10th January 2014

Where additional memorials were identified within responses received, these have been reviewed and where appropriate - added to the draft proposals. In an ongoing process it has been considered appropriate to write direct to the landowners where these additions have been suggested and seek their views. This means that in all instances the landowner has been consulted where memorials are proposed for local listing, even when the memorial was not on the original draft list.

Please note that copies of the Council's consultation publicity materials (for example, press advertising and webpages) are available upon request.

For detail of the representations received and the Council's responses to these comments see table below

Summary of Representations received during the Local List Consultation and LBTH responses

	Consultee Type /Organisation	Representation Summary	LBTH Response
1	Head of Arts Parks and Events	Request for information regarding funding sources	Directed to the relevant funding sources
2	Borough Archivist	Provided a list of memorials not on proposed list. Also provided additional historical detail for some memorials.	These memorials were investigated, some were statutorily listed, some have been lost and some are to be added to an amended list of memorials for designation.
3	Berkeley Homes - owner	No objections to listing of memorial in Hermitage Riverside Memorial Gardens	Noted

4	Ancient Monuments Society	Supportive of local listing designation, and happy with the removal of buildings / structures removed from local list as a result of statutory protection being achieved.	Noted
5	Bromley by Bow Centre	Confirmation of receipt of letter and query regarding whether further action is required. Note of good condition of memorial but loss of legibility.	Noted – condition of memorial will be investigated after Local Listing.
6	Rep. Deputy Lieutenant LB Tower Hamlets	Generally welcomes the initiative and looks forward to being involved in the conservation of these memorials	Noted
7	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	This is a response to the Deputy Lieutenant and sets out other bodies which might be interested in our proposals and which may offer assistance	Noted
8	EH Statutory Officer	Passed to Historic Places Team	Noted
9	LBTH Education – Building Development Officer	Did we contact schools or do we want them to pass on?	We contacted schools directly.
10	War Memorials Trust	Welcomes the move to locally list memorials, this raises awareness and provides some protection. Attach a list of memorials from their records. Suggest that we let <i>War Memorials Online</i> know of the local listing status of memorials once adopted, and that we consider putting forward any suitable for statutory listing.	Reviewed list supplied. Agree we will inform <i>War Memorials Online</i> . Reviewed the suitability of those proposed for local listing and put forward for listing as appropriate.
11	On behalf of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	Suggested factual amendments regarding the Memorial Identified and noted that it was maintained and managed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and suggested a contact.	Noted and Commonwealth War Graves Commission contacted.

		<p>Highlighted the Poplar Civilian Memorial in Tower Hamlets Cemetery</p> <p>Provided detail of the more formal garden which used to provide the setting for the Civilian War Memorial, victims of poplar air raids</p>	<p>Noted and additional information filed in history files Civilian Memorial added to draft list.</p>
12	Milestone Society	<p>Asked that the borough consider the local listing of the Castle Public House, 44 Commercial Road</p>	<p>Noted, but this consultation relates expressly to war memorials.</p>
13	Canal and River Trust	<p>Broadly supportive of the proposals</p>	<p>Noted</p>
14	Royal British Legion	<p>Thank you for your work in seeking to protect war memorials in Tower Hamlets.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
15	English Heritage	<p>Supportive of the Boroughs intention to maintain a local list, but advised that they would like to see the list refined in line with EH local listing guidance.</p> <p>Further correspondence stated that EH are pleased that items removed which could be regarded as fittings rather than fixtures. EH happy that monuments affixed to the interiors of buildings could be considered as heritage assets, though they encourage the borough to ensure that suitable local policies are in place to ensure that they are managed appropriately should development proposals come forward which could affect their historic significance. Otherwise EH very much welcome the Council's efforts to ensure that the borough's war memorials are recognised and conserved through local listing.</p>	<p>Noted and list refined to omit two fittings inside a building.</p> <p>Support for the revised list noted</p>

16	A local resident	A letter of support, and phone calls offering additional information about many of the memorials on the draft list, and identifying other memorials which may have been omitted. The letter also contains information about a World War I clothing factory in Cavell Street, which the resident would like to see locally listed. On a broader note the resident expressed concern that buildings which he had previously suggested had not been locally listed and that the EH criteria were not being strictly adhered to.	The list has been updated with the information provided. The additional memorials identified have been considered and where appropriate have been added to the draft list, and the owners contacted. Only war memorials are being considered for local listing at the current time.
17	MoLAS	Note the potential difficulties for management / conservation of monuments within buildings which are not themselves of heritage value. Whilst a thematic study of war memorials is worthwhile MoLAS are not convinced that the local list is the best way of doing this.	Difficulties of maintenance are not considered a reason to not list memorials that meet the criteria of heritage assets. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that Local Listing is an appropriate way of protecting heritage assets which include war memorials.
18	Doyle Town Planning and Urban Design	Query re: anomaly on list	List amended to correct anomaly.

Key Messages

The key message from the consultation responses received was that the proposals to add a number of war memorials to the local list are broadly welcomed.

A number of omissions to the proposals were identified and these have been explored and the proposals amended as set out in the main body of the Cabinet report.

Conclusion

The consultation has offered broad support for the proposals to amend and update the list – subject to some questions raised which have been addressed in the summary of representations above.