

# Champion for Armed Forces & Veterans

## Report on Expenditure from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

"To assist the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Members to work with the organisations that support ex-servicemen and women to work even more closely together and to ensure that veterans and their families get the support they deserve."

### Summary of activities during the year

This year has been one of renewed commitment to our Armed Forces Community Covenant and has seen an enormous amount of work from officers and partners in preparing the first ever County wide veterans network. It has also seen the Council recognised in its work on behalf of the ex-forces community in winning awards from the LGIU and Recruiter Awards for Excellence. The Council, through the Chairman, also held a gala dinner to pay tribute to Veterans of World War 2 to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

### Activities Supported from 2013/14 Budget:

#### **MAON Limited £2,800**

MAON Limited helped with drawing up an Armed Forces Community Covenant grant to help establish an Armed Forces Community Volunteer Network across all Lancashire Councils. The network will contribute to Lancashire County Council's Community Covenant pledge on behalf of the civilian community of Lancashire and the Armed Forces Community in Lancashire. The project is expected to realise benefits for the civilian community of Lancashire, the Armed Forces Community in Lancashire, Lancashire County Council, and all Councils in Lancashire. The official launch of which is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Slyne with Hest Parish Council The Great War Centenary –Commemoration Exhibition £170**

This was a community event being led by Slyne with Hest Parish Council, along with the Local History Group and Slyne with Hest Memorial Hall Committee and organized entirely by volunteers. Members of the Local History Group had done considerable research on the people of the parish who were killed in World War I and named on a plaque in the Memorial Hall. It was intended to exhibit their findings along with memorabilia artefacts and archive material gathered from a number of local sources. The local primary school had also agreed to be involved and the children produced art work in various forms relating to WW I for the exhibition.

#### **Banks Brass Band £1,000**

Banks Brass Band is a village band, all of whom are volunteers. The band traveled to France and Belgium from Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – Mon 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in order to contribute to the centenary commemoration of the outbreak of World War 1 by

playing memorial services at the Thiepval Memorial to the missing on the Somme and at the Menin Gate evening Last Post service in Ypres. In addition they played at five cemeteries where WW1 soldiers from Banks are buried and laid wreaths. The band also gave presentations to children at the 2 primary schools in Banks about WW1 and the part played by the men and women who fell, including in some cases their ancestors, using video and still images.

### **Armed Forces Group £1,000**

The Armed Forces Group held an armed forces day for the city of Preston. They were keen to stage an authentic WW2 battle reenactment on the day (complete with actors, uniforms, military vehicles, pyrotechnics and replica firearms)

Presented by Northern World War 2 association. Who provide performers, uniforms, replica firearms, pyrotechnics, military vehicles and an interactive display stand. This 'show' was both entertaining and educational and formed the centerpiece of the day's events.

### **Air Cadets £1,545**

The installation of the CCTV would benefit the squadron on two levels with the computers which will run the CCTV system also being able to be used for squadron projects and presentations for the training of the cadets. The wireless CCTV system would be used as a deterrent, an alert of entry to the squadron but also to monitor anybody who does enter the squadron by recording their presence but also making it possible for the cameras to be viewed through a secure website or through a mobile phone.

### **The Parachute Regimental Association £300**

The Parachute Regimental Association needed funds to help send veterans of the Arnhem landings to the final reunion in the Netherlands who would otherwise not be able to attend this act of remembrance to their comrades.

### **Poulton Residents Association £1,356**

Poulton Poppy Trail Event 2014-2018 event commemorates those who died in WW1 and have a connection to Morecambe and highlights the history of those involved. The local primary school pupils were actively engaged with their teachers, in adopting a grave, planting poppies and researching the casualties and their families. Open days would be held regularly in the old Morecambe Cemetery over the next four years providing information, displays and help to visitors attending. New visitors to the cemetery will be able to see the restoration work and wild flora and fauna encouraged back over the last four years as well.

### **St Barnabas Church £500**

St Barnabas Church in Morecambe proudly commemorates serving armed forces as the parent church for the local Royal Air Force Association and Air Training Corps. The funding will assist with some maintenance and painting of the meeting room, joining kitchen and toilets to allow the room to be used to its full potential and also become an asset to the local community.

### **Gulf War Memorial Trust Appeal £1,000**

The funding of £1,000 was used towards the cost of funding a permanent memorial at the national arboretum in Staffordshire as a lasting tribute to the 47 service

personnel that never made it home, this funding is all being raised by a small group of veterans. The funding allocated will bring immense pride to the families of the 47 fallen.

### **St Matthews CE Primary School £1,000**

This project was based on commemorating those that fell during WWI connected with residents from east Preston communities. St Matthews CE Primary School have a strong link and relationship with St Matthews Parish Church, and this project started out after a stain glass window and plaque that commemorate fallen soldiers during WWI within the church was researched by the pupils. It was discovered that many of the families in the area still have connections to those referred to on the plaque and the pupils felt that renewed symbol of remembrance during this year especially poignant.

### **Lancaster Methodist Church Cornerstone Care £450**

The Cornerstone is used intensively in partnership with various charities serving disadvantaged people. The funding of £450 was used towards the cost of publicity materials. 2000 fliers, Information for the external notice board A1 size, 1000 Loyalty cards, 4000 changing spaces specific fliers.

With the publicity they can begin to work more effectively, including sharing information with veterans. Lancaster Unlimited have offered to give their fliers out in packs to those who arrive on coach tours to the city. This will bring in additional revenue to their café and offer often older people a welcoming environment.

## Schedule of Expenditure for 2014/15

<b>County Councillor Darren Clifford - Champion for Armed Forces Veterans</b>	
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount of Grant</b>
MAON Ltd Armed Forces Community Volunteer Network and 6 months update work	£2,800
Sylne with Hest Parish Council – Great War exhibition	£170
Banks Brass Band – new uniforms / instrument repairs	£1,000
Armed Forces Group – Armed Forces Day	£1,000
Air Cadets – CCTV System	£1,545
The Parachute Regimental Association – Veterans trip to Normandy	£300
Poulton Residents Association Poppy Trail – advertising flyers and flags	£1,356
St Barnabas Church - maintenance work to meeting room	£500
Gulf War Memorial Trust Appeal – Memorial	£1,000
St Matthews Primary School – WW1 stain glass plaque	£1,000
Lancaster Methodist Church Cornerstone care – publicity material	£450
<b>TOTAL SPENT</b>	<b>£11,121</b>