

COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY AN APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION TO ERECT A NEW WAR MEMORIAL IN COLWINSTON VILLAGE

1. BACKGROUND TO THE APPLICATION

Colwinston has the distinction of being one of only 3 Blessed Villages in Wales and one of just over 50 in the whole UK. This term- which is used interchangeably with 'Blessed Village'- means that all the men from the village who served in the First World War returned unharmed at the end of the conflict. This meant that there was no need for a war Memorial to be erected in the village at that time. However, in the Second World War, 4 men from Colwinston were killed and although their names are recorded on a plaque in St Michael and All Angels Church, there was no memorial to which their names could be added.

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, Colwinston Community Council would like to establish a War Memorial in the centre of the village. It would make reference to the men who served their country in the First World War and name those who died in the Second World War. In recognition of its status as a Blessed Village, Colwinston was presented with a plaque by a group of Bikers who visited all the Thankful Villages last year and this will be set into the stone of the proposed memorial.

2. CHARACTER

The Memorial has been designed to be a simple structure, made out of stone sourced from a local quarry and deliberately kept in it's natural from, rather than being 'finished' in the way a more traditional one might be. It is intended that the two inset plaques will be of slate and will match each other in size, style and the font used. The finished monument will be a modest but attractive and sympathetic addition to the village green, a location that is central to the life of the small community.

3. ACCESS

It is intended that the new memorial will be sited on the village green, which is open and accessible to all residents and to visitors. It is centrally located on the main street of the village and would be easily found by any casual visitor, arriving either by car or on foot. The village green itself is a small area at the junction of two roads and the Highways Department have indicated that they have no objection to the site as the modest height will not block sight lines for motorists. The green is easily accessible on foot by pedestrians and is also accessible for those with limited mobility. The memorial will be surrounded by a paved area and there is also a bench seat on the green.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY

As already mentioned, the Highways Department have no objections to the memorial on road safety grounds. Visitors to the memorial will be able to stand on the green to view it and would be away from any passing traffic. The green is protected by posts that prevent motorists from parking along the edge of it.

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The memorial is to be constructed from stone from a local quarry, situated less than 10 miles from the village. The stone is being donated for the project and many local residents have also given their time and skills to the project. The memorial is outdoors and there are no issues concerning the supply or nature of utilities or materials that might have been used in the construction of a building.

6. **MOVEMENT TO, FROM AND WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT**

Please see the comments made under heading 3.

This is a free standing memorial, with no surrounding building.

JANE MOTTE, CLERK

ON BEHALF OF COLWINSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

November 15th 2014