

Public statement

Fenton Magistrates Court World War I memorial plaque



Date: 14 August 2013

Status: Immediate release

Starts

War Memorials Trust is aware of the proposed sale of Fenton Magistrates Court which contains a number of war memorials. The Trust has had previous involvement with this case and has been in regular contact with the [War Memorials Officer](#) at the local council.

There are a number of heritage designations relating to the site; the building is locally listed, the memorials are recorded on the Historic Environment Record as sites of historic significance and the Albert Square area is a conservation area with the freestanding memorial outside the building being Grade II listed.

The Trust understands that plans are already being developed to relocate the movable war memorials within the building to a nearby church. These plans do not include the impressive World War I memorial plaque located in the stair well. This war memorial is particularly large and is constructed of ceramic tiles.

Due to the size and nature of this war memorial relocating it would be a significant undertaking and could pose a major risk to the fabric of the memorial. Being mindful of this risk a decision has been reached locally that the memorial will remain within the building for the time being and that the future of this memorial will be considered more fully once a planning application is submitted and the future use of the site is known.

War Memorials Trust would normally recommend that a memorial is not relocated from a building until its future use is known for these very reasons. If it transpires that the building will be reused for public use and the memorial will therefore remain publicly accessible then there may be no need to put it at risk through relocation. The Trust has a helpsheet on [Relocation](#), which may be of interest to those looking into this matter.

At this time War Memorials Trust believes that appropriate action has been taken to safeguard the First World War memorial. It notes that the relocation of other memorials at this time is outside what the Trust would advise at this stage of the development process but recognises the custodian has determined this approach as they look to care for the memorials. However, the Trust will continue to monitor the situation and will take action if the situation changes. The Trust has also requested to be consulted on any proposals for the site so that we can ensure that appropriate provision has been made for the memorial.

Further details about this case can be found at: www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/node/140243.

Ends

Contact

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Notes to editors

1. War Memorials Trust is an independent registered charity. Established in 1997 due to concerns about neglect and vandalism it works to protect and conserve war memorials. It provides advice, information and administers grants schemes that assist the repair and conservation of war memorials across the UK. As a charity the Trust relies on voluntary contributions to undertake its work. Supporters include annual and life members, donors, charitable trusts and corporate contributors.
2. War Memorials Trust provides grants that can assist repair and conservation of war memorials. Contact the Conservation Team to discuss eligibility on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or conservation@warmemorials.org or download an 'Expression of interest form' from www.warmemorials.org/grants/.
3. War Memorials Trust provides a free advisory service to anyone with a war memorial enquiry. Specialist Conservation Officers are available on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or conservation@warmemorials.org.