

Public statement

Proposal for the relocation of Golders Green war memorial



Date: 19th April 2017

War Memorials Trust has been made aware that the London Borough of Barnet is currently carrying out a consultation for the redevelopment of Golders Green station which includes the possibility of relocating the war memorial clock tower. The Trust has submitted its comments on the proposals as part of the planning process.

In general, War Memorials Trust does not support the relocation of war memorials except in circumstances where they are either inaccessible (for example in storage) or are at risk of damage. This is because relocation can lead to the loss of a war memorial's setting which forms part of its significance and also because relocation carries a risk of damage. War Memorials Trust has a helpsheet on [relocation](#), which may be of interest to those looking into this matter.

In some circumstances, the relocation of a war memorial is necessary to achieve a substantial public benefit as highlighted under paragraphs 133 and 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework. In such cases the Trust advises that a clear case must be made demonstrating that the benefits outweigh any harm to the significance of the war memorial.

In War Memorials Trust's comments in response to the planning brief it has stated that efforts must be made to protect the war memorial's prominent position in the centre of Golders Green as this is an important part of its setting and integral to the context in which it is experienced by the local community. Should the memorial be relocated away from its current prominent position, War Memorials Trust would consider the loss of this setting substantial harm and would be likely to oppose such a scheme.

If proposals are developed which are sympathetic to the setting of the war memorial and would retain its prominent position within the centre of Golders Green then the Trust would be happy to work with the London Borough of Barnet and other stakeholders to ensure any proposals follow best conservation practice. It should be noted that as the war memorial is listed, it will be necessary to apply for Listed Building Consent for demolition even though the war memorial will be reconstructed. This use of the work 'demolition' is a specific term in relation to Listed Building Consent and should not be misunderstood to mean the complete demolition and disappearance of the memorial but rather as a technical stage in a relocation process.

We hope that during this process the London Borough of Barnet, and the wider community, take the opportunity to recognise the architectural and historic significance of the setting of Golders Green war memorial and ensure that this is protected for future generations.

Further details about this war memorial can be seen, and added to, at:
www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/node/112599

Contact

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