

CELCA Grant Application Form

Application Reference: GM 03/06/2024.6

Applicant/Organisation:

Individual on behalf of the CELC community

Reason for Application:

Restoration of Longformacus War Memorial. A number of residents have raised concerns about the deteriorating state of the War Memorial at Longformacus' "new" Cemetery as well as the condition of some of the War Graves located there.

As early as 2013 it was reported on War Memorials Online, supported by the War Memorials Trust, that the memorial was in a poor condition. The decay is now severe and I've discussed this on site with the War Memorial Trust.

The issue has been discussed repeatedly at Lammermuir Community Council and I'd suggest, as the successor organisation to the Parish Council which consented to the memorial, that it sponsors the project to add appropriate strong governance.

Benefit to the Community:

The oak lych gate was commissioned and given consent to be erected by Longformacus Parish Council in 1919. It appears to have been in place by 1920 so is an early example and of an age with the cenotaph. The Chairman of the War Memorial Fund that raised the month was Col. Charles Holme of Rathburn. Two of his sons were dead in 2014, one, unusually for war casualties, buried at Longformacus. It commemorates 13 who died and, importantly too, is the entrance used by funerals today, visitors and residents tending loved ones' graves.

The War Memorial Trust are clear action needs to be taken and are keen to support a community project. The cause of decay is clear. The oak structure sits in sodden ground, the western elevation takes all of the harsh weather and at some stage a plastic paint has been applied, trapping in wet and encouraging rot. A similar, but in much better condition gate is at Fogo, still in its raw oak state.

As well as cleaning, conservation and repair of the memorial itself the plan is to see the three war graves in the cemetery restored and there may be opportunities to enhance the entrance area and perhaps make it more accessible to those visiting or attending funerals who have mobility issues.

The War Memorial is a sensitive and historic structure that requires care and traditional and appropriate skills. Whilst we could just commission some repairs it is clear that previous, well-intentioned interventions in the past have been harmful and contribute to the damage. Therefore it seems prudent to engage the services of a local conservation architect. They will; provide advice on the conservation and restoration needed. Agree a plan for future work. Draw up specifications for the work to enable approved suppliers to tender – necessary to draw funding from War Memorials Trust and other bodies.

Supervise the work and suggest enhancements to the surrounding area

War Memorials Trust are keen on the project. They recognise that the memorial is increasingly fragile and needs urgent help. Whilst they have not, and cannot yet, commit funds, they are being generous with support and advice.

SBC's Director of Infrastructure & Environment is supportive of the project, welcomes it and is content that we proceed. SBC have suggested that if it would help funding and ongoing support they would look favourably at transferring the asset into our community's ownership – which is where it started

with our community, over a century ago, funding the memorial.

I'd suggest we have an obligation to continue that community intent.

The memorial is largely of oak and it will restore and conserve a community asset for the future.

It will enhance visitor's experience at the cemetery.

It will show appropriate respect for service and to our war dead.

There may be opportunities for residents to engage with the restoration and the techniques involved.

There should be an opportunity to further enhance the entrance to the cemetery and, perhaps, provide information on those commemorated.

Disability Provisions:

Both the memorial and cemetery are public assets open to all and it is important we maintain that as accessible and available to all for the long term.

The site is open to all.

Details of Funding Requested:

ITEM	QTY	COST
1st stage is to engage a conservation architect to draw up a condition report to specify the necessary works and draft documents to tender from appropriate contractors with the skills needed to deal with a historic oak structure	1	£3,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST		£3,000.00
Amount Requested from CELCA		£3,000.00

Details of other sources of funding:

War Memorials Trust - decision pending.

Contributions from Applicant/Organisation:

Funds to support architects work are needed so we can properly tender the work then bid into War Memorials Trust and other funders. Without that work we cannot do so.

War Graves Commission - have been approached to restore the damaged war graves on site to be associated with this project.

Dates of Project:

Imminent - 2025