



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 27th November 2023

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM COUNCIL NOTICES OF MOTION

1. **Meeting Date:** Council, Thursday 24th March 2021

Notice of Motion: Covid Memorial

“This council recognises the major impact the Covid 19 pandemic has had on Gloucester with virtually all areas in the city being affected. Many people have contracted the virus and too many have lost their lives with friends and families losing loved ones.

Health and welfare services have been pushed to the limit but have done a fantastic job in extremely difficult circumstances.

The business community has been severely hit with many local companies struggling to cope.

However, the resilience and determination of Gloucester people has shone through and there has been many excellent examples of people and organisations going that extra mile to help others.

The efforts of key workers have been phenomenal and along with our outstanding NHS staff they have continued to deliver essential services and their vital role in 4 looking after us. This has been despite often extreme and very challenging circumstances.

The city has also experienced a massive community spirit with local volunteers and community organisations looking after vulnerable people and those who were isolating, ensuring they had food and other essential supplies. The Covid pandemic is not over yet and it may be still too early to call. However, it is time to start thinking about how Gloucester marks and remembers the huge impact that Covid has had on our city, the sacrifices people have made and the sterling community effort that took place in order to cope.

It would therefore be very appropriate to create a permanent and long lasting Covid Memorial to be placed in a prominent position in the city. The memorial would

remember all those who lost their lives and be a fitting tribute to key workers in essential services and the phenomenal community effort that was made. The memorial would tell the story of how the people of Gloucester coped with the Covid pandemic so that future generations could appreciate and understand the sacrifices that were made.

Gloucester City Council should take the lead in creating the memorial but should do so in partnership with the many appropriate organisations and interested parties in the city. This would ensure a structure that was created by and representative of a wide range of people communities and organisations.

Council resolves to:

- Take the lead in creating a lasting Covid Memorial to be sited in a prominent position in the City Centre.
- Design a fitting tribute that remembers those who lost their lives and recognises the immense contribution that key workers, volunteers and community organisations made during the crisis.
- Bring together a partnership of appropriate organisations and agencies to deliver the project and draw on their resources, skills and talents.
- Fully involve local people, communities and voluntary organisations.”

Update:



The above graphic is an artist's impression of the Covid Memorial stone circle in position in Gloucester Park. The stones will stand about 1.1m out of the ground. There are eight stones to represent the different groups of key workers identified by the government. There will be a small, roughhewn, stone in the centre of the circle with a simple plaque on it and a more detailed information board set outside of the circle. There is also the option of a bench the other side of the path (on the right on the image attached) for people to sit on and contemplate. The stone will be sourced from a quarry in the Forest of Dean. We are currently working on the specifications for securing the stone in the ground and intend to have the stones in place for the spring.

