

Briefing Note for 6.7 – MPF Memorial Gardens Upkeep

As we have discussed at previous Community meetings – The local Royal British Legion Group have now changed their status to a County Support Branch, and this has meant that they are no longer able to be involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the Memorial Garden at the Memorial Playing Field.

With this in mind there has been a recent meeting with the former Chairman of the Royal British Legion, Steyning Group, Lewis Whittaker, during which the following was established

1. The RBL will henceforth, not be able to arrange for the maintenance and gardening upkeep of the site
2. The lady who has been doing the majority of the regular gardening upkeep of the site for the last 10/12 years and is, as far as we know, still willing to continue with this work.
3. There is a bank account with funds which the RBL wish to close and donate the funds to the Parish Council to go towards the continuing maintenance and upkeep of the gardens – A One-off donation.
4. There is also an annual hand hedge cutting, bush and tree pruning required, which has been arranged and paid for via the RBL by a long-term benefactor – We are unsure whether this donation is to continue, but either way it will be necessary for the Parish Council to consider taking the management of this over.
5. There is an arrangement for all the garden waste to be disposed of via a local resident's green bin – this will need to be discontinued and SPC bins to be used instead.

We need to therefore consider the following

1. There needs to be some words of thanks to the Royal British Legion for all they have done for the community of Steyning and for creating and then looking after the Memorial Garden.
2. We need to consider arranging for the appointment and payment of the lady who has been looking after the gardens – She remains interested in doing this for us. We need to consider a rate of pay and the number of hours per month involved and ensure she is happy to invoice us for her work
3. We also need to consider agreeing to continue the long-term hedge cutting and tree and bush pruning arrangement with the person who has been carrying out the work, if he is still willing to do it or to make other arrangements if not.