

Auchentibber War Memorial Poll

By Blantyre Telegraph (December 2016)

Background

During September through to November 2016, a monthly meeting was held by various local stakeholders to discuss the existing condition of the Auchentibber War Memorial on the western side of Parkneuk Road, Blantyre. The War Memorial, (constructed in 1923 to commemorate the local soldiers who died fighting in WW1) had become dilapidated and in need of repair, something recognised by South Lanarkshire Council.

An escalation meeting was held on **Thursday 24th November 2016** at South Lanarkshire Council's Cemeteries Office within the Crematorium at High Blantyre. The small meeting set out to highlight the current condition of the memorial and explain various options open for South Lanarkshire Council to repair or rebuild it elsewhere. Some of these options attracted grant funding. The meeting was attended by representatives from Auchentibber WI, High Blantyre Baptist Church, Blantyre Telegraph, Blantyre Community Council, Blantyre Heritage Group and a member of the public.

The Poll

South Lanarkshire Council commented they had conducted a condition survey in Autumn 2016 and confirmed options were both available to repair in-situ, or relocate it altogether to the Crematorium site, where it may be protected from the impact of future traffic. They wished to "do the right thing" by respecting what the public wanted to happen to it. It was understood by all that there may be local pros and cons about both options. The stakeholders each took various actions. During the meeting, Paul Veverka of Blantyre Telegraph made a suggestion that the people of Blantyre could be polled to ask their preference via the Blantyre Telegraph Facebook Page, which currently has good reach and engagement with the community as a whole. It was agreed this would be worthwhile to allow SLC to gauge public support and this report relates specifically to that action.

The poll was put online and made available to the public at the end of November 2016 asking 4 simple questions providing multiple choice answers. The Questions asked were as follows:

Q1 Should Auchentibber War Memorial be renovated where it currently is?

Q2 Should the War Memorial be rebuilt in a quieter area in Auchentibber?

Q3. Should the Memorial be rebuilt at the Crematorium site?

Q4 In Summary, my preference is:

Poll Results

It is understood each various stakeholder has discussed partial poll results during December but not yet had visibility of the final results herein. Additionally, the joint stakeholders have not yet met together since to discuss the Memorial or these results.

The Poll ran from Tuesday 29th November 2016 until Thursday 15th December 2016, a period of 17 days and was shared often. **144 people** took part. The audience was targeted specifically to people who live in Blantyre.

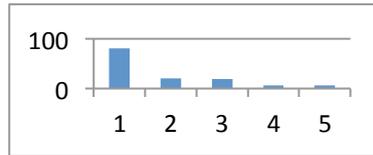
The results are as follows:

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Q1 Should Auchentibber War Memorial be renovated where it currently is?

1 Strongly Agree 60.9% (81 votes)
2 Agree 15.79% (21 votes)
3 Disagree 14.29% (19 votes)
4 No opinion 4.51% (6 votes)
5 Strongly Disagree 4.51% (6 votes)
Total Votes: 133

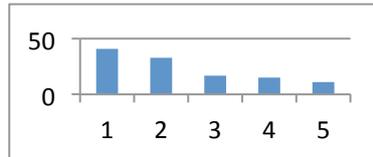


Result:

People overwhelmingly support the War Memorial being repaired where it currently stands at present.

Q2 Should the War Memorial be rebuilt in a quieter area in Auchentibber?

1 Strongly Disagree 35.04% (41 votes)
2 Disagree 28.21% (33 votes)
3 Strongly Agree 14.53% (17 votes)
4 Agree 12.82% (15 votes)
5 No Opinion 9.4% (11 votes)
Total Votes: 117

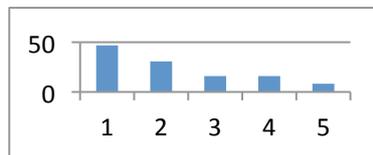


Result:

More than a third of people showed no real support for rebuilding the monument elsewhere in Auchentibber.

Q3. Should the Memorial be rebuilt at the Crematorium site?

1 Strongly Disagree 39.83% (47 votes)
2 Disagree 26.27% (31 votes)
3 Strongly Agree 13.56% (16 votes)
4 Agree 13.56% (16 votes)
5 No Opinion 6.78% (8 votes)
Total Votes: 118



Result:

There was a majority opinion that the monument should NOT be rebuilt at the Crematorium site.

Q4 In Summary, my preference is:

Memorial to be renovated where it is, respectful of the current position, knowing that traffic may impact its future condition 54.17% (78 votes)
Memorial to be entirely rebuilt in the crematorium grounds, protecting it from traffic & noise 23.61% (34 votes)
Memorial to be entirely rebuilt in a quieter area in Auchentibber, protecting it from traffic & noise 22.22% (32 votes)
Total Votes: 144

Result:

More than 54% of people wanted the memorial to be renovated where it currently stands, ahead of all other options.

Conclusions

There was no real support for rebuilding the monument elsewhere in Auchentibber, nor at the Crematorium. Public opinion, quite categorically prefers renovating and repairing the monument where it currently stands.

Recommendations to South Lanarkshire Council

Blantyre Telegraph recommends, following gauging the public opinion of 144 people of all ages who live locally, that Auchentibber War Memorial should be renovated to a high standard (ideally using grant monies) at the current site where it stands, in-situ at Parkneuk Road, Auchentibber, High Blantyre. If possible to address traffic and safety concerns as part of the renovation and repair consideration. A further recommendation may be to poll Auchentibber residents specifically for their input.

End

Distribution: South Lanarkshire Council (Cemeteries), Blantyre Heritage Group (c/o Gordon Cook), Mr. Alex Rochead, Blantyre Community Council, Blantyre Baptist Church (c/o Steve Younger), Auchentibber WI and Blantyre Telegraph.