

Letter of support – The Aftermath

Background

1. Council has been contacted by the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Association requesting a letter of support with regard to a funding application they have made to the Heritage Lottery Fund,
2. The present situation is that the KOSB Museum has applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to hold an exhibition based on the KOSB Museum in 2018, but able to tour to all military museums, libraries and other locations in Scotland and northern England. The exhibition is to be called, "**Aftermath**" - **how the war affected returning servicemen and their families**.
3. At present the application has just been submitted, and has received encouragement from HLF. The KOSBA have been asked to submit letters supporting the concept and would be very grateful if Berwick upon Tweed Town Council could consider writing a letter of support for this exhibition that we could send to HLF.
4. The aim of the project is given in more detail below:-
"The aim of the project is to illustrate the difficulties that returning servicemen and their families had when they came back from the war. Some of the servicemen were wounded and some had lost limbs in the conflict; with others damaged or affected both physically and mentally, so the difficulties that they - and their families - experienced when trying to find work, housing and education for their children needs to be recognised and not forgotten.
The involvement of the Regimental Association with all the returning servicemen, the requests that were made for assistance, help and support are documented within the archives of the Association and would be of considerable interest if made known and exhibited.
Many of the men who returned after the war still have relatives in the Borders of Scotland and the north of England so this exhibition would be of particular interest to them.
It is proposed that the exhibition could be offered to other military museums in Scotland and Northern England as the Great War had a considerable impact in all these areas, as it did to those who served and their families throughout the country."
5. The proposed exhibition will be both an additional attraction for the KOSB museum, but will reflect the long tradition of links between the KOSB and the town of Berwick upon Tweed.

Recommendation

1. Council is recommended to instruct the clerk to send the letter attached at Appendix (i) to the KOSB Association, for them to forward to the HLF.

Appendix (i)

Dear Sirs

At its meeting on 10th April 2017 Berwick upon Tweed Town Council resolved to instruct me to write to you to support the funding application made by the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Association with regard to its proposed exhibition, The Aftermath.

Bearing in mind the relationship of Berwick to the KOSB, and Berwick's proud tradition as a garrison town, council believes the proposed exhibition has great potential to make a lasting difference to the people of the town, many who have familial relationships with the KOSB, the community of the town, which is justly proud of its long association with the army, and the heritage of the town.

We would hope we do not have to remind you of the prominence of the barracks in Berwick's history and its built environment, nor of the barrack's role as a regional hub for understanding the heritage of the region, and the experiences of its people. The proposed exhibition has a considerable emphasis on the social history of Berwick upon Tweed, and its people, and is praiseworthy for its potential to make a three dimensional story out of the combination of the built environment and the documentary history.

For all these reasons we would, therefore, urge you to give the application from the KOSB Association the fullest possible consideration.

Regards

Gareth Davies LL.B.

Interim Town Clerk