

Middleton Parish Council

Pride in Stone



Middleton Remembers

Commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War

Middleton Memorial Preferences Public Consultation Analysis

Introduction

Following an Open Meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 25th July 2018 to discuss the design, siting and wording of the proposed Middleton Memorial 438 questionnaires were distributed to homes in the village from 30th July 2018 and were available at The Nelson Arms. This is in addition to 40 available at the meeting. The form was available on the Parish Council website. Completed forms could be handed in at the Public Meeting, left at The Nelson, emailed or posted to the Parish Clerks. The closing date for comments was 9th August 2018.

Summary

A summary of the preferences expressed in the 86 responses received (17.99%) is as follows:

- Location; Verge near top notice board and car park near the Nelson
- Design; 3 low panels inclined towards public view
- Inscription; "In memory of those who died and in the hope of future peace"

Q1: Preferred location for Middleton memorial?

Village Green	28	32.6%
Verge near top notice board and car park near the Nelson	53	61.6%
Though not a part of the question, the following was also stated:		
No choice	3	3.5%
Millennium Garden	2	2.3%

Q2: Preferred design ?

A – Centre panel with two winged panels	25	29.1%
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B – 3 panels side by side with end pillars	5	5.8%
C – 3 low panels inclined towards public view	43	50%
Though not a part of the question, the following was also stated:		
A or B	1	1.1%
A or C	2	2.3%
Least objectionable	1	1.1%
None	9	10.5%

Q3: Preferred wording?

A. In memory of those who died and in the hope of future peace (suggestion of Rev Canon David Truby)	51	59.3%
B. We remember those in Middleton who lost their lives in conflict	8	9.3%
C. Middleton Remembers	11	12.8%
D. Your own wording	7	8.1%
i. In memory of those connected with Middleton who lost their lives in conflict		
ii. To follow		
iii. In memory of the fallen of Middleton to whom we owe so much		
iv. A. In seeking peace we remember those from Middleton who died in conflict		
B. We remember those from Middleton who died in conflict and continue to seek peace		
v. Middleton Remembers those who gave their lives for their country		
vi. Middleton Remembers The Fallen		
vii. At the going down of the sun we will remember them		

Though not a part of the question, the following was also stated:

A or C	1	1.1%
Blank responses	8	9.3%

Notes:

Percentage totals in the tables above may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Not all responses recorded preferences to all questions.

Q4: Comments and suggestions

40 comments and suggestions were received and are as follows;

- Prefer Village Green for location if design C

- Prefer Verge if design A or B
- We'd like that the memorial "could" be sited on the green, but we feel that it should be sited below the wall where the cars park or where the benches are.
- Prefer on the green perhaps where the benches currently are and move the benches across a bit.
- The village green is the appropriate site for a memorial, utility could look too cluttered, perhaps some of the planting needs reducing to enable it to be viewed as it deserves. Design C is preferable as A and B seem a bit overpowering for a small village.
- Village Green by the benches. Option C fits into the hillside.
- Another location could be in the Millennium Garden – a place for quiet reflection.
- At the green it will be too hard to see to pull out. Design C is likely to have children sit/climb on it. I think the verge by the Rising Sunday is best where more people will see it.
- They are all too big. Not good designs. Not on our Green!
- None of the designs. Not on the Green.
- Locating the memorial on the green will limit visibility at the junction. Design C will be easier to see/read and is more easy on the eye! Middleton Remembers is short and sweet.
- Pleased it does not just reference WW1. Rather than already overcrowded village green or a roadside verge next to a car park and a waste bin, a better site would be a corner in the Millennium Garden. A chance where visitors can sit and reflect in peaceful surroundings and also a more appropriate site for formal commemorations away from a busy road.
- If the memorial was placed on the green, I don't think there would be room enough for people to gather for things like Christmas or New year, and we are a spread out enough community as it is. It's important to keep our spaces. The Nelson / flower bed site is ideal – we can still have plantings by the memorial.
- NO NAMES
- It's probably agreed that the Village Green, though charming, is quite "bitty" and "piecemeal" with small "imitations" happening which show how people have goodwill and pride in their village, that's great. So now there's a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a single statement construction to enhance the village and act as a focal point for generations to come.
- MIDDLETON MEMORIAL GARDENS
- Neither presence for location. Least objectionable presence for design. We have no objection of a war memorial per se, however, surely funds would be better spent on current residents of the village and we remember in kind. Also, why does everything have to be on the village green, can you fit any more on there? It may have escaped your attention but Rise End residents also contribute to the village coffers so isn't it time some money was spent at this end of the village. It's time the council was inclusive and not discriminatory to Rise End!!

- How about the Millennium Gardens? (With a small remembrance garden)
- Thanks for consulting us!
- A would include people who have lost their lives in 2nd World War and since.
- (a) Remembering lif [sic] lost in wars since
- Comments – to be honest I think a cenotaph-style monument or something more modern would be probably too late for this.
- Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the consultation.
- Consider a modern sculpture.
- Wording (a) this captures the past (remembrance) but also gives hope for the future
- I feel due to the size positioning on the Green isn't a safe option plus when.... Christmas tree is erected. The idea is lovely. Just location needs serious consideration for residents of The Green and Water Lane.
- Design A (but smaller surround) designed by a good architect
- Please do not put it on the village green.
- Preferred design; whichever design allows the location to be on the verge near the notice board and the Car Park
- I am extremely against it being located on the green!
- An alternative location could be the Millennium Gardens (a) it is already a place to remember the locals who have died or left the village and it could not cause any traffic hazards as (b) [the verge near the top notice board]. If that is not possible the village green is ok.
- The parish council have already received my views on visibility before this proposal. Its very dangerous – I still get ignored.
- Develop the bus shelter as a permanent memorial with no need for another location.
- Ideal where the bus shelter is but I understand there would be problems with this idea.
- Preferred Design A – but C if located on verge
- Remember that there is a need for visibility from Water Lane. [Name, address]
- Please confirm that the names of the fallen in World War 2 will also be remembered
- “Middleton Remembers 11.11.2018” Is the date necessary in this place - could it be below “erected 11.11.2018” Not as obvious that it took 100 years to erect a memorial
- I would have preferred a more modern design, smaller perhaps, such as a pile of stones representing the men who lost their lives like the cairns you find on ridges.
- I would like to take this opportunity to firstly say the memorial the Parish Council are currently working on to pay respect and remember those who fought for our country is absolutely fantastic.

I would however like to express my concerns over the proposed positioning of the memorial. Being a resident of The Green I know how difficult this junction is at the best of times. The report / photo the Highways Agency carried out, sadly is not a true representation of the visibility at this junction. During typical rush hour, there are cars parked both sides of The Green (the side leading up to Water Lane). So please imagine this scenario, you're driving down towards the junction in a car, cars are parked all the way down the right hand side, so the opportunity to check for oncoming traffic isn't possible, then there's the memorial if it is to be positioned where the phone box used to be (which was glass, so see through), then a car parked sideways on which is a regular occurrence at the end of the junction. Now your view is totally blocked, so you're having to creep out to check it is safe to pull out. Then we have to contend with the speed people travel through the village at, using it as a rat run to avoid Cromford Hill, the A6 as a short cut. So, should someone pull out, it would be that person at fault pulling out from The Green into oncoming traffic. Hopefully you can see mine and many residents of The Green, Water Lane and The Moor's concerns over safety around the positioning of the memorial.

Should the "majority vote" from residents be that they wish the positioning of the memorial be on The Green, can we look at an alternative location not so close to the junction, such as where one of the benches are, and rotated 90 degrees so it is parallel to the stone wall. This will then allow for visibility, as positioned further back from the junction, using the best space available for the memorial without being a distraction for drivers through the village.

I would like to think the Parish Council will use common sense, and listen to the views and concerns of residents explaining their concerns over safety. As after all, it is us, the residents of The Green, Water Lane, The Moor and the few residents of New Road who park their cars on The Green, where the positioning of the memorial it effects *[sic]* the most.

Thank you.

- A letter was also received from a resident;

If I had to choose from the options it would be Design A. I'm sure the wording will be appropriate whichever is chosen.

However a re-building of the old feature with it's water content and size would be best use of the green area and a monument to those who died in the great war. It was a valued part of their daily lives as I see it and it may be that their names could be incorporated into it. But anyway way to site, design A or B on the verge near the top notice board and aim to build the original feature on the green is, for me, by far the preferred aim

Sorry if I've made my comments belatedly but I hope they're of some assistance

[Illustration of water feature position in relation to stone war memorial A or B on verge]

Part of the daily lives of those who died and a unique, original centre for the village around which Xmas and other celebrations can be designed – with the war memorial within "eye shot"

FOR HERITAGE, PRIDE, PRACTICALITY, TOURISM PLEASURE & MOST OF
ALL REMEMBERING

Conclusion

The broad range of views and ideas received in the responses is very welcome. The Parish Council thanks all those who took the time and made the effort to reply.

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Holy Trinity Church on Monday 13th August 2018, commencing at 6.30pm where the agenda will include the item; "To approve the design and siting of the proposed Middleton memorial on/near the Village Green" The consultation responses will be reported to the meeting and will be considered as part of the decision making process. In the interests of openness and transparency the analysis will be made available on the Parish Council's website.