

PRESS RELEASE

Remembrance Sunday Parade 2020

It was with deep regret that at a meeting of the Town Council, that took place remotely via Zoom on the evening of Monday 7th September, the difficult decision was made to cancel this year's Remembrance Parade and Service. After considering the government guidelines on mass gatherings and social distancing, brought about by the current Covid-19 pandemic, Councillors came to the conclusion that the Town Council would not be able to comply with the restrictions and ensure the safety of our residents.

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service was due to take place this year on Sunday 8th November 2020, and ever hopeful that the event could continue to take place, the Town Council had applied for, and been granted a Road Closure Notice by Bath and North East Somerset Council. The Council had also tentatively booked FAST Ambulance for First Aid cover during the event, and made a start on the Event Plan and Risk Assessment required by B&NES Council for public events. We had also received the Operational Plan and Risk Assessment from the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Branch of the Royal British Legion who play a huge part in organising the Parade and Service.

The Parade and Service in the town regularly attracts a high number of people wishing to pay their respects, including veterans - who are amongst the vulnerable members of our community, and, as we have sadly seen over the last six months, they are particularly susceptible to the effects of COVID-19. This is in addition to the large groups of children and adults representing the Armed Forces, the Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts, and school children wishing to attend and lay wreaths.

At the time of writing, the British Legion website currently states, "due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are continually reviewing our events and to ensure better clarity on the situation in November, the Legion will communicate its full plans for this year's Cenotaph dispersal in early autumn". They are continually reviewing and monitoring the situation and how to proceed with the event at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

The Midsomer Norton and Radstock Branch of the Royal British Legion have also advised us that there will be no fundraising this year. This means that the Branch will not be carrying out any shop, street, school or manned collections. Some supermarkets are serviced directly by The Royal British Legion, London and that may still go ahead. The Midsomer Norton and Radstock Branch are also in the final stages of planning to "Dress the Graves" of those local people who appear on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the local cemeteries.

The Town Council has ordered a wreath, and will be working with the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Branch of the Royal British Legion for the laying of the wreaths.

