
Agenda Item: Commemorative Plaque Request – Corporal John S. Christiansen

Meeting Date: Monday 8 June 2026

Contact Officer: Administrative Support Assistant - Facilities

The purpose of this report is to advise of a request to create and display a commemorative Plaque on the Tower Hill memorial wall.

Background

At the meeting of this Committee on 16th March 2026 (Minute H141 HCA 16.03.2026 relates), it was advised that the Council had been approached by the Friends of the Cemeteries for a plaque of commemorative information for a United States soldier, Corp John S. Christiansen who was buried at Tower Hill Cemetery from 1918 – 1920 before his disinterment and repatriation to New York, USA.

Current Situation

A memorial plaque wall is available for families to erect a plaque in memory of their loved ones. The request made by Witney Museum (supported by FoTC) is that the Council erect the plaque in order that anyone visiting the cemetery is able to locate information of those individuals that served.

The option of an additional QR code, at added cost, could be considered. This would link with additional information of Corp Christiansen. Such as [Corp John S. Christiansen \(1890-1918\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#)

Corporate Strategy

The Council's Strategic Plan 2025–29 sets out the Council's long-term priorities and direction, supporting its mission to 'make Witney a great place to live, work and visit.' This report contributes to the delivery of the following strategic pillar of the plan:

4. A Respectful Community

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality - The proposal should be considered with regard to fairness, inclusivity, and equal treatment, ensuring that recognition all service personnel are commemorated.
- b) Biodiversity - None
- c) Crime & Disorder - None
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency – None

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

Financial implications

- The cost of the plaque would be £84-120 from cost centre 301/4350

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and

1. Consider the agreement to procure and erect the plaque on the Tower Hill Memorial Wall.