

Westbury Market Place war memorial: Public views sought



Residents of a Wiltshire town are being asked if a war memorial removed in the 1970s should be replaced.

The monument, which stood in Market Place in Westbury, was demolished to make way for parking spaces.

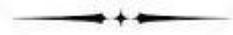
After the monument was removed, another was built in nearby Edward Street where remembrance services are now held.

Westbury Town Council has launched a public consultation to gauge opinions on building a new memorial as part of improvements to Market Place.

It said the consultation was launched after some residents expressed an interest in a war memorial as part of a proposed civic area.

People are being asked to complete a survey on the authority's website.

(BBC News – 15 April, 2013)



Return of the War Memorial in Westbury

Westbury Town Council is asking people from the town if they would like to see a war memorial back in the historic Market Place.

The monument, which marked those killed in the two world wars, used to stand in the market square, but it was removed in 1975 to make way for more car parking.

The idea of reinstating a similar memorial first came up when plans were mooted for recent improvements to the Market Place, with many people saying they would have liked a war memorial there.

Now the town council has agreed to launch a consultation to gauge public opinion, with a working group for the council coming up with a survey that will be available from April 15.

Deputy Mayor Mike Cuthbert Murray said: "We are at the very earliest stages of what could be a lengthy but important project for the town.

“Before we go any further with exploring external funding, we need to know exactly what the people of Westbury want.

“Many people, old and young, have told me they want to see a memorial back there.

“It is part of the town’s heritage and is especially relevant as we approach the centenary of the First World War.”

The survey, which will run for three weeks, will be available from local shops, businesses, the library and the town council offices. People will also be able to respond online.

The current war memorial in Edward Street, the venue for the town’s annual Remembrance service, would not be affected by any new monument.

For more information about the survey, call West-bury Town Council on 01373 822232, or visit www.westburytowncouncil.gov.uk

(Wiltshire Times – 12 April, 2013)

