

## Commemorations Review - Survey Report

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### 1. Summary

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*Questionnaire format:*    *Web and telephone*  
*Responses:*                *64 Total*  
*Date range:*                *1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021*

### 2. Introduction

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We have asked the public for their views on how historical figures and events should be commemorated in the borough so that we can make sure future commemorations reflect what is important to local residents and that they are inclusive of our diverse communities.

Please note percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

### 3. Questionnaire results

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following draft principles for future commemorations supported or developed by Chesterfield Borough Council?  
(Please note these are in addition to statutory requirements such as planning permission etc. where appropriate.)

<b>Q1. Where commemorations relate to a named individual, either their permission or in the case of a deceased person – their family or estate administrator’s permission should be obtained.</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agree	23	37.1%
Tend to agree	26	41.9%
Neither	8	12.9%
Tend to disagree	4	6.5%
Strongly disagree	1	1.6%
Don't know / not sure	0	0%

<b>Q2. Where commemorations relate to an organisation, they should be consulted, and permission obtained.</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agree	26	40.6%
Tend to agree	27	42.2%
Neither	5	7.8%
Tend to disagree	6	9.4%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Don't know / not sure	0	0%

**Q3. All commemoration proposals require a research and engagement stage. This includes consultation with relevant stakeholders including statutory agencies and appropriate community and voluntary sector groups.**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agree	31	48.4%
Tend to agree	23	35.9%
Neither	7	10.9%
Tend to disagree	2	3.1%
Strongly disagree	1	1.6%
Don't know / not sure	0	0%

**Q4. Commemorations supported or developed by Chesterfield Borough Council should only relate to individuals, organisations or historic events with a close connection to the borough. This could be a prominent individual who was born or lived in Chesterfield Borough and/or made a significant contribution to the borough. It could be an organisation based in the Borough making a significant contribution, our diverse Chesterfield communities, or a building of intrinsic value to the borough.**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agree	33	51.6%
Tend to agree	17	26.6%
Neither	3	4.7%
Tend to disagree	6	9.4%
Strongly disagree	4	6.3%
Don't know / not sure	1	1.6%

**Q5. The costs and maintenance of commemorations should be at the expense of the proposer (which may be Chesterfield Borough Council itself) or external funding secured.**

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	26	40.6%
Tend to agree	31	48.4%
Neither	6	9.4%
Tend to disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	1	1.6%
Don't know / not sure	0	0%

**Please note any further principles you wish to be considered.**

- It would be useful to have a small display alongside the commemorative feature explaining what they had done to receive this award
- Make sure any existing or proposed monuments or street signs [do not] have links to people who held or continue to hold and promote racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, colonialist or any other discriminatory view, for example, not erecting plaque for someone involved in the slave trade.
- Proper consultation, not just a tick box exercise
- Clearly there are commemorations in our country to people/organisations that we consider to have behaved in a manner that is now unacceptable. I think that these commemorations should be removed but the object or an image of it placed in a museum explaining the reasons for its removal. If we forget history, we repeat our mistakes.
- Re individuals - gaining permission from relatives if they are long dead is surely not necessary. For more recently deceased or those still living permission would be of course a courtesy.
- Nationally important figures eg Winston Churchill should be considered for commemoration
- Keep costs to a minimum. Only do it if there is spare money.
- I'd like to avoid commemorating individuals. Clearly that practice has, in the past, led to commemorations to individuals who would not be commemorated today. One thinks of slavers and colonialists who undoubtedly enriched the UK, but did so on the profits from their colonialism or slave trading. Let's commemorate ideas and movements.
- Commemorations should be considered on the basis of genuine comparative significance, contribution or achievement. Not simply an exercise to create or revise commemorations and spend money (that could be better used for services elsewhere) as part of a box ticking exercise of appeasement in reaction to some unlawful actions that have been taken by pressure groups in recent protest events.
- Blue plaques to the sports men and women of the town. The Davis brothers snooker and billiards; John Lowe, Darts; Peter Bates, Billy Green boxing. Parts of Chesterfield that have been bulldozed put a photo near the site with a small amount of history like the

Queen's park hotel, the Arms houses which were on the donut to name a few. Or how a street got its name, example Glumangate.

- There should be a proper justification for the commemoration based on an assessment of the purpose, benefits, costings and fit with a plan.
- There are no options to oppose the celebration of persons or organisations. No member of Chesterfield Borough Council should be commemorated/honoured, irrespective of their service to Council, which should be seen as a personal individual choice of civic duty. A long serving councillor, should not automatically bestow a commemoration.
- Where persons are commemorated, a balance should be struck with regards to the sexes and the communities of Chesterfield so, as far as possible, they reflect the borough's make up through the ages. It should be noted that contributions of some are not always recorded so well as for others. For individuals and institutions, support for the commemorations should be found from a broad range of residents in the community.
- The naming of roads and locations in the area, including parks, squares and other public spaces.
- Absolutely nobody commemorated for political motives. Must have a strong and obvious local connection to the site and the borough. No public buildings ie hospital or council office to be named after a person. No following of fads or trends in naming for example recently deceased Captain Sir Tom and particular attention to be made to the legacy it may leave to name something after a person who's behaviour later may be considered harmful in any way.
- I feel that Captain Sir Tom Moore has been suitably recognised already with a Knighthood, a flypast on his birthday and many public accolades and I am sure that the town he was a son of will be the one where he has a permanent memorial, not Chesterfield
- Only individuals or organisations born or based in Chesterfield should be eligible for recognition
- All historic, national, and local commemorations should be supported, and encouraged, to create a sense of social identity, connectedness (across and within communities) for the purpose of British culture.
- A plaque or a statue for Barbara Castle
- Please ensure the person or organisation has relevance to Chesterfield
- We need to keep our history and learn from it.
- Don't follow popular trends, they change over time. Wait.

**Q6. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1=not at all important, 5 = very important) how important are the following ways to commemorate and celebrate the history of Chesterfield Borough and our diverse communities?**

The numbers have been weighted (don't know answers have been excluded) and a mean score given (to one decimal place). For detailed information for this question, please see the table immediately following this.

	<b>Mean score</b>
Museum exhibitions	4.3
Blue plaques	4.1
Commemorative and celebratory events	4.1
Interpretation boards in key locations	4.1
War memorials	4.1
Plaques on street furniture eg. benches	3.8
Street name suggestions to developers	3.8
Flag flying for key buildings e.g. town hall	3.7
Statues and monuments	3.7
Percent for art – public art works scheme	3.6
Freedom of the Borough – the highest honour the Council can give for services to the borough. For example Chesterfield Football Club, Mercian Regiment are holders of Freedom of the Borough	3.3
Honorary Alderman – for former Borough Councillors in recognition of service to the borough	2.7

<b>Q6. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1=not at all important, 5 = very important) how important are the following ways to commemorate and celebrate the history of Chesterfield Borough and our diverse communities?</b>													
	Base	5		4		3		2		1		Don't know	
		No.	%	No.	%								
War memorials	63	40	63.5%	6	9.5%	9	14.3%	2	3.2%	6	9.5%	0	0%
Statues and monuments	64	21	32.8%	15	23.4%	17	26.6%	7	10.9%	4	6.3%	0	0%
Percent for art – public art works scheme	63	21	33.3%	16	25.4%	13	20.6%	8	12.7%	5	7.9%	0	0%
Blue plaques	64	26	40.6%	22	34.4%	13	20.3%	1	1.6%	2	3.1%	0	0%
Street name suggestions to developers	64	23	35.9%	15	23.4%	16	25.0%	6	9.4%	3	4.7%	1	1.6%
Flag flying for key buildings e.g. town hall	63	21	33.3%	19	30.2%	12	19.0%	3	4.8%	7	11.1%	1	1.6%
Museum exhibitions	64	36	56.3%	19	29.7%	4	6.3%	1	1.6%	4	6.3%	0	0%
Commemorative and celebratory events	63	28	44.4%	20	31.7%	10	15.9%	3	4.8%	2	3.2%	0	0%
Honorary Alderman – for former Borough Councillors in recognition of service to the borough	64	11	17.2%	9	14.1%	11	17.2%	15	23.4%	18	28.1%	0	0%
Freedom of the Borough – the highest honour the Council can give for services to the borough. For example Chesterfield Football Club, Mercian Regiment are holders of Freedom of the Borough	64	20	31.3%	9	14.1%	14	21.9%	15	23.4%	6	9.4%	0	0%
Interpretation boards in key locations	62	30	48.4%	15	24.2%	10	16.1%	3	4.8%	3	4.8%	1	1.6%
Plaques on street furniture eg. benches	63	19	30.2%	22	34.9%	15	23.8%	6	9.5%	1	1.6%	0	0%

**Q7. Are there any other types of commemoration you wish Chesterfield Borough Council to consider?**

- School names should be part of this, for instance we have lost Violet Markham, Edwin Swale, Harry Cropper and William Rhodes that has now become Parkside. Gilbert Heathcote should be retained but with an interpretation board explaining the story. A garden could be created with plants or symbols from the Caribbean, Asia, Poland etc to celebrate out ethnic residents
- Living history exhibitions, for example, having actors act out historic events that took place in Chesterfield consistent with historical record, like Mrs Crocombe at Audley End House, but in Chesterfield. It might help people feel closer to their local history.
- Graves
- Remembrance Sunday, St George Day,
- Inventions, engineering projects, old collieries etc associated with Chesterfield
- Let's not commemorate individuals (see my earlier comment), and let's not commemorate the military.
- Special collections in libraries
- Names of buildings.
- Government and local authority buildings in England, Scotland and Wales are encouraged to fly national flags every day of the year or as a minimum the prescribed Flag Days.
- Buildings are sometimes named after key people. The VIC could hold more information regarding people of note and maybe promote town tours to highlight Chesterfield's contribution to the world.
- An acknowledgement register or similar, maybe not everything needs a grand and formal gesture.
- Murals
- Only those highlighted in previous questions
- To keep existing street names
- Current street names should not be changed
- Lectures/talks on the history of the event/person/organisation

**Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree that Chesterfield Borough Council should introduce a formal single route and process for commemoration proposals to be made to the Council?**

	Number	Percent
Strongly agree	19	29.7%
Tend to agree	31	48.4%
Neither	7	10.9%
Tend to disagree	2	3.1%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Don't know / not sure	5	7.8%

**Q9. How do you currently access information about commemorations in Chesterfield?  
(Tick all that apply)**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Chesterfield Borough Council website	32	68.1%
Derbyshire County Council website	16	34.0%
Chesterfield civic society website	12	25.5%
Chesterfield Museum	18	38.3%
Chesterfield Museum website	18	38.3%

**Other, please specify:**

- Twitter
- CBC social media feeds
- Social media
- Social media
- Facebook
- CADLHS Facebook page
- Local community
- Facebook
- Derbyshire Times when advertised
- Google
- Only find out after it has happened!
- Friends of Spital Cemetery
- Social media
- Local press
- Derbyshire Times
- Didn't know this information was available
- Facebook pages for CBC and Museum
- DerbyshireTimes, Council newsletter
- Local heritage groups. Local library. Online

**Q10. How could we improve information about commemorations within the Borough?**

- Press releases
- Advertise more
- Special Facebook groups/pages. Involve local schools and societies
- Facebook
- Have a centralised list easily accessible to all
- Talk to the real people
- Clear signposting on websites and in libraries and museums.
- I didn't even know there was a Chesterfield Borough website, so make that better advertised around town etc. Put up YouTube videos about commemorations (include other social media). YouTube videos would give an opportunity to provide the reason for a commemoration, the history significance etc as well as bring awareness of the location and hopefully might even have a positive impact on tourism to Chesterfield? Look to establish a mailing list of people who are interested to provide further opinions.
- A specific web location on CBC website listing what the commemoration is for, where it is and where further information can be found. Also links to proposed commemorations
- An annual index of proposed commemorations could be sent out with the Council Tax bill.
- Information at VIC and the library.
- Any commemorations should be open to a public consultation process and not be restricted to internal council meetings where the public are generally not represented or would not have knowledge of what was happening.
- Mailing lists
- Not necessary
- More publicity
- In Our Chesterfield publication (not everyone is on Facebook)
- Local press
- Retain and explain historic relevance
- More social media promotion
- Advertising, social media
- Greater emphasis on website
- Visitor Centre website
- Derbyshire Times, email, Visitor information centre
- Derbyshire times does a good job

**Please tell us about any people, organisations, historical events or buildings which you think should be considered for future commemorations. Please include information about their connection to Chesterfield Borough, why you feel they should be commemorated and what type of commemoration you feel would be fitting.**

- Violet Markham for her work with Education and providing a chain for the Mayoress. Asking Outwood Academy for her name to be included or putting a blue plaque on the School
- John Hurt: maybe a film season at the Winding Wheel/ Pomegranate, which could be streamed online for those unable to attend in person or during lockdown. Barbara Castle: A plaque or statue.
- Just a few. The women; Blanche Eastwood Florence Robinson, Mary Swanwick and Violet Markham. The entrepreneurs; Ebenezer Smith, George Stephenson etc. The visitors; we have had French prisoners of war, Romans, abolitionists and former enslaved people, very famous ones who have attended meetings in Chesterfield. The travellers who camped in Brampton or on Whittington Moor. People like Joshua Jebb who lived at Walton Lodge and was so influential and respected that the Mayor asked all citizens to stand outside for his funeral. The merchants like Eyres and Shentalls and of course Robinsons. The sports people (of course but they tend to be well known), but with a twist such as baseball was played in Queen's Park a few times. Ordinary heroes like Elijah Hallam who saved six men from a mine, at Sheepbridge, there will be many more. As well as those who served in the wars and the current Covid crisis. Teachers who have worked in our schools. Maps in the town showing how it's all changed and why
- Edward Carpenter - lived in Chesterfield, Victorian gay rights activist. Last gay man standing when Oscar Wilde went to prison - plaques and posthumous freedom of the Borough. Raymond Unwin - founder of the Garden City movement (designer of Letchworth Garden City), lived and had one of the first offices in Chesterfield - plaque. William Ashmore - architect - designer of housing developments in Chesterfield, award winning architect - plaques.
- Listen to the Parish Council, and Parish Councillor, they are more interested and in touch with the People
- More diversity. More emphasis on themes and issues and less on 'great' people.
- Some of the famous people such as John Hurt a famous actor, John Lowe as a major figure in the development of the sport of darts in the 1970s, 80s and 90s (captain of the England team etc). I would welcome the opportunity to think more about that and contribute further thoughts at a later date. Robert Robinson winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry ? [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Robinson\\_\(chemist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Robinson_(chemist))
- Sports persons who brought the town to the attention of the world, also actors
- There are a number of landmarks eg: industrial areas, street and building names but no indication of the impact they have had on the development of the town and its people eg: Sheepbridge, Racecourse Road
- Tony Benn
- Sir Robert Robinson OM PRS FRSE (13 September 1886 – 8 February 1975) Nobel Prizewinner 1947, for his research on plant dyestuffs. Fred Greaves (1890-1973) VC died at his home, Whitelands, 48 Ringwood Road, Brimington, Chesterfield on 8th June 1973. He was cremated at Chesterfield and District Crematorium, and his ashes were buried in Brimington Cemetery. Bertram Vivian Bowden, Baron Bowden (18 January 1910 – 28 July 1989) was an English scientist and educationist, former Principal of what is now UMIST.
- Emma Miller - grew up on Packer's Row and eventually moved to Australia where she was key figure in campaign for women's right to vote. Barbara Castle - born in Chesterfield. Susie Blanche Eastwood - philanthropist, town councillor and magistrate.

- I would like to see an update of our military memorials to reflect local men and women who have served in the recent conflicts such as the Falklands War, Gulf Wars and Afghanistan.
- William Sylvester, Inventor, born in Newbold, Museum display
- Kevin Hill for what he does for Hollingwood
- Castle
- Revolution house should continue to be commemorated, the figure of Oliver Cromwell should also be central and promoted as a significant historic figure of the local area. A few more that should continue to be commemorated are George Stephenson, Olave Baden Powell, Baron Bowden.
- Alan Cooke, former UK table tennis champion and now head of the ETTA
- Violet Markham, she was years ahead of her time, and many thousands had cause to be grateful to her as she worked to improve the standard of education in Chesterfield. She founded the Settlement, which initially sought to improve the welfare of girls and young mothers and babies but greatly extended its work. Although she became involved in national affairs she never forgot her home town. Her name lived on in Violet Markham School but that has been demolished and the school renamed. One possibility is a blue plaque on Burlington House, which is being redeveloped as this was the site of the Settlement, founded and for many years funded by Violet Markham.
- Chesterfield canal opened 1777, 2027 marks 250th anniversary. Celebration at Tapton Lock and Museum. Charles Markham born 1823. 2023 is 200th anniversary. Celebration in Barrow Hill and Museum. Maybe at Roundhouse? Harry Brearley born 1871, this year is the 150th anniversary. Museum exhibition about his invention of stainless steel, he lived in Whittington and Walton. This year marks 150 years since formation of the Chesterfield and Derbyshire Institute of Mining, Civil and Mechanical Engineers. Museum and theatre exhibitions. 1922, 100 yrs ago, Lamp Caps opens in Chesterfield. Museum exhibition. 1923: almost 100 years ago, Dema Glass opens. Museum exhibition 1975, almost 50 years since Sir Robert Robinson, Chesterfield (only?) Nobel prize winner dies.
- Queen

#### 4. Equality monitoring

Q1 What is your gender?		
	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Male	27	50.9%
Female	24	45.3%
Prefer not to say	2	3.8%

<b>Q2 Is your gender identity the same gender you were assigned at birth?</b>		
	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents</b>
Yes	51	96.2%
No	0	0%
Prefer not to say	2	3.8%

<b>Q3 How old are you?</b>		
	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents</b>
Under 18 years	0	0%
18 to 24 years	1	1.9%
25 to 34 years	5	9.4%
35 to 44 years	4	7.5%
45 to 54 years	8	9.4%
55 to 64 years	15	28.3%
65 to 74 years	15	28.3%
75 years and over	3	5.7%
Prefer not to say	2	3.8%

<b>Q4 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?</b>		
	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents</b>
No	38	71.7%
Yes	13	24.5%
Prefer not to say	2	3.8%

<b>Q5 What is your ethnicity?</b>		
	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents</b>
White British	49	92.5%
Other White background	1	1.9%
Black or Black British	0	0%
Asian or Asian British	0	0%
Mixed ethnic group	1	1.9%
Other ethnic group	0	0%
Prefer not to say	2	3.8%

<b>Q6 Which of the following best describes your religion?</b>		
	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents</b>
Buddhist	0	0%
Christian	22	41.5%
Hindu	0	0%
Jewish	0	0%
Muslim	0	0%
Sikh	0	0%
Other religion	4	7.5%
None	24	45.3%
Prefer not to say	3	5.7%

<b>Q7. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?</b>		
	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Percentage of respondents</b>
Heterosexual / straight	45	84.9%
Bisexual	2	3.8%
Lesbian / Gay woman	1	1.9%
Gay man	3	5.7%
Prefer not to say	2	3.8%