



# Wellingborough Town Council

## WREATH PROTOCOL

The laying of wreaths is an integral part of many Remembrance services and highlights the functional and commemorative roles of war memorials. The laying of wreaths allows individuals and organisations to pay their respects and lay a tribute to individuals or groups. As the laying of wreaths are personal tributes, often made in a public setting or on a public memorial, those responsible for the memorial are at times challenged with the role of managing the wreaths without causing distress or offence.

This protocol aims to provide guidance on the two biggest issues:

- when to remove wreaths from memorials following Remembrance services
- and how to secure wreaths on or around a memorial.

With many other practices involving war memorials, there are no rules which state when wreaths should be removed from a memorial. Therefore, this is something which needs to be decided by the owner or custodian of the memorial following consultation with the local community. It is a recommendation that a policy is put in place by the custodian which details when the wreaths will be removed so that everyone is aware of when this will take place, and to ensure consistency in the future.

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### When to remove wreaths

Some people may be upset by wreaths being removed what they consider prematurely, whereas others may be concerned that wreaths have been left for too long. If wreaths are left in place for a long time, they can begin to deteriorate which can lead to the memorial appearing as though it is not looked after and this can cause distress. Furthermore, wreaths which are left directly on the stone for prolonged periods, particularly in wet weather, can cause staining on the stone from either the wreaths themselves or from any metal ties in them, which can be difficult to remove.

The Chairman is the designated person to lay the wreath at both war memorials in Wellingborough on behalf of the Town Council. It is recommended that wreaths are removed from the war memorial by the Royal British Legion when they start to deteriorate.

### Wreath holders

In some cases it may be necessary or desirable to have a more secure form of displaying wreaths. There may be a number of reasons for this, such as that they blow off the memorial in windy weather, but alternative means of fixing can also remove the possibility of the wreaths staining the memorial. The requirement to fix the wreath to the memorial to be assessed once laid. Any fixings should not damage the war memorial in any way.