

Councillors all

I see that the future of the Lendy Memorial in Lower Sunbury is scheduled for discussion at the next Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9th February.

I have reviewed the proposal from the Officers as to how this might be handled, and have the following comments:

Point 1.3 clearly states 'Topple the Racists state that they want debate and it's the responsibility of the local communities to decide what statues they want in their local area. They are not advocating statues should be destroyed.'

2000+ residents of the local community have already said that they want the memorial (note – not statue) to be retained, in the knowledge of the historical background from an earlier paper by Mr Alan Doyle. As retention of the memorial would not, by TtR's own statement expose it to destruction, what more evidence is required?

Point 1.4 clearly provides a workable solution which addresses the education of future visitors to the Walled Garden who view the Memorial.

I would also make the following points:

Point 1.7 confirms that Mr Doyle's credentials have been established, so why is a further opinion required?

Point 1.9 Having decided not to proceed with the academics' report on cost grounds, and commissioned the report from Mr Doyle, presumably this was considered authoritative enough. Had this been presented to the Committee earlier, it would already have been voted on. If it was considered good enough then, why not now?

Point 2.1 – removal of the 'statue' (note again – not memorial) – would "satisfy the Topple the Racist organisation" – as they have already stated that they are not advocating that statues should be destroyed, but wish to stimulate debate, why would removal satisfy them/achieve this?

Point 2.6 This appears to relate to all the Council's 'Community Assets' – if this is correct, why is the Lendy memorial being singled out?

Point 2.7 – this is emotive language – the Council would not be 'refusing' further information, they would be declining it on the basis that further information was not required be able to make a properly informed decision.

I urge you to accept the authoritative report submitted by Mr Alan Doyle, and reject the need for further opinion on this issue. The Community has made its views perfectly clear. This issue has dragged on for far too long and needs to be decided as a matter of urgency.