



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Proposed Plaque Plan for the civic year 2023-2024

Meeting: Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee

Date: 4 September 2023

Meeting Paper by Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Heritage Plaques

A plaque should be accessible and have a sustained impact, therefore the design, positioning, inscription and quality of the plaque must be considered. The text should be informative, highlighting key information whilst avoiding bulky text that would detract from opportunities to generate further queries for local groups, and which people will often not read.

An official RAL colour number will be required for the grey/green tone of the plaques to ensure all a consistent colour.

The currently agreed iconography: a cross for plaques with a religious connotation, a 19th century herring lugger for plaques connected to fishing, maritime activity or mercantile trade, and a reduced form of the old Borough badge (two versions have been used). Once the Lowestoft Borough coat of arms is transferred, plaques of high heritage and civic value relating to the period when Lowestoft was a borough (1885-1974), could use the coat of arms for iconography.



(Examples of the two town motifs, the icon needs to be clarified to avoid for future plaques)

A new category of flora has been suggested, primarily for plaques related to parks and open spaces (a bluebell for Belle Vue Park and a daffodil for Kensington Gardens in connection with the holocaust memorial) and for some war-related plaques the Flanders Poppy.

English Heritage advise that the average time for a plaque project is 2 years, therefore this report suggests 2 plaques a year be the average, subject to change based on public demand for a plaque or anniversary years. We would not want too many plaques unveiled in one year as the budget may become strained, and fewer planned plaques allow for flexibility when members of the public present new proposals. Also, the amount of press coverage for a plaque is generally during its

unveiling, so that is a key time to engage with and educate the public on the topic, two plaques a year allows for this enhanced focus on the topics.

Plans for 2023-2024

The previous batches have been reviewed and re-prioritised based on their need (i.e. if it is a replacement plaque how urgent is the replacement) and if there are any significant anniversaries for the event/location/person being commemorated so that it is a meaningful installation. Plaques for buildings that are in development should be delayed to when works are complete.

For 2023-2024, the following three plaques have been proposed, please note that any suggested amendment to wording would be discussed with the historians who contributed to the original wording to ensure a combined effort that produces a meaningful and informative plaque.

Belle Vue Park

28 May 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the parks opening and would be an opportune time to install a plaque for Lowestoft's oldest and first public park. It is suggested to use a bluebell for the iconography rather than the Town motif.

The plaque would be sited on the white arch building on the Yarmouth Road entrance, which is Town Council owned land.

Alternative wording is suggested as the planned information panel for the park provides information on the park's history:

The original wording reads as follows:

*Opened in 1874 as The Arboretum, it was laid out with thatched cottage on the North Common.
It had steps down to the ravine and a spring-fed fountain with a pagoda up above.
The Grade II listed Ravin footbridge was built in 1887 and the park extended in 1905.
The RNPS Memorial replaced the pagoda in 1953.
Three 32 pounder cannons were replaced here in 1972 marking this as one of the town's three
national coastal defensive Battery sites from Tudor to Victorian times*

The suggested amendment reads as follows:

*Belle Vue Park
Lowestoft's first public park
Opened 28 May 1874*

St Margaret's Church

2024 marks 125 years since the refurbishment of this church and as the original parish church of Lowestoft it is a key landmark in the town. Further discussions on permissions (DAC permission and a faculty) would be required. As a Grade I listed church building, the plaque could not be sited on the church wall itself. The iconography used would be the Cross Motif.

The original wording supplied reads as follows:

*St Margaret's Lowestoft Parish Church is the third longest in Suffolk,
after those of St Mary and St James, Bury St Edmunds.*

*Of classic perpendicular style and build dating from c. 1450-80, but with a mainly early-fourteenth century tower and high-altar crypt of the same period.
A fine medieval place of worship full of ecclesiastical and Lowestoft heritage features*

The suggested amendment reads as follows:

*St Margaret's Parish Church
The third longest church in Suffolk and dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch.
Founded by the Priory of St Bartholomew after Henry I granted them the manor of Lowestoft in 1230
The tower and crypt are dated mid-to-late 14th century
A fine medieval place of worship with ecclesiastical and local heritage features*

Fiammetta Wilson

19 July 2024 marks the 160th anniversary of Fiammetta's birth here in Lowestoft, a remarkable woman of her time with many accomplishments in her field of astronomy. Initial enquiries on her family home have led to No. 37 London Road North but this needs to be verified. The iconography used would be the Town Motif.



The suggested wording reads as follows:

*Fiammetta Wilson
Born Helen Frances Worthington 19 July 1864
British astronomer
One of the first female Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society, elected January 14 1916
Observed over 10,000 meteors during her career*

This report asks Councillors to vote on:

- Whether to establish a new category of flora for plaques
- If they are in agreement with the 2023-2024 plan, considering the future years shown on the plaque spreadsheet
- If they are in agreement of two plaques a year as the average