

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People & Places (Introduced by the Executive Leader, Alistair Bradley)	Executive Member Decision	11 December 2012

## CHORLEY REMEMBERS – COACH HOUSE GALLERY

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide an update on expansion and enhancement of the memorial room at Astley Hall element of the Chorley Remembers Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project.
2. To consider the feedback and comments received regarding the proposed change of use of the gallery in the Coach House and make a decision regarding the future use of the gallery room for the Chorley Remembers exhibition.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

3. To approve the use of the Coach House Gallery for the Chorley Remembers exhibition to include a review after 2 years.
4. That the Council continue to work with the local groups affected to provide suitable alternative arrangements as detailed in section 21 of the report.
5. To approve the commissioning and completion of the necessary works as detailed in sections 24 to 26.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

6. The report provides an update on the expansion and enhancement of the memorial room element of the Chorley Remembers HLF project. The recommendation is approve the use of the gallery room in the Coach House and work with the various local groups to provide suitable alternative exhibition space.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### (If the recommendations are accepted)

7. To approve the use of the Coach House Gallery for the use of the Chorley Remembers exhibition and to ensure that more of the funding can be focused on providing high quality display material rather than the upgrading electrical and lighting systems.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. To locate the Chorley Remembers exhibition in the Memorial room and Townley room at Astley Hall.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

## BACKGROUND

10. The original proposal was to develop the Memorial and Townley Parker rooms at Astley Hall to accommodate an enhanced exhibition display. A significant element of the project funding is directed towards upgrading the limited electrical supply and lighting.
11. At the Executive Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012, Members approved the option to use part of the Coach House to accommodate this element of the Chorley Remembers project.
12. The Coach House already has adequate electrical and lighting, it would mean that more funding could be directed towards improving exhibition materials and display equipment. The exhibition would also be more accessible and would enhance the overall offer to visitors.

## UPDATE

13. Following the Executive Cabinet decision on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 approving the option to use part of the Coach House, it was established that the preferred room in the Coach House for the Chorley Remembers exhibition was the gallery. This was due to the room size, space available, electrics and lighting of the room.
14. During July and August six individuals / groups that had bookings in the gallery from October were contacted to advise them that the room may no longer be available and to arrange a suitable alternative. Although this process took longer than expected, due to availability over the holiday period and the focus on the cenotaph element of the project at the time, satisfactory alternatives have been agreed with everybody contacted.
15. Due to staff availability at the Council and Chorley Remembers it was not possible to brief the Astley Advisory group at their scheduled quarterly meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Therefore, a separate one-off meeting was arranged for the 5<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the Chorley Remembers project and the use of the gallery room. There were a number of concerns raised and following this meeting it was agreed that Council officers would meet with affected groups to discuss their concerns. A letter was also received on 12<sup>th</sup> September from Maurice Houghton, Vice Chair of Friends of Astley Park requesting further consultation (see Appendix 1).
16. On 27<sup>th</sup> September the Council wrote to members of the Astley Advisory group to seek their views and feedback regarding the proposed future use of the galley. A total of eight responses have been received and are attached in Appendix 2. A meeting has also been held with Rosemary Boyd to discuss the use of rooms in Astley Hall to house the Chorley Remembers Exhibition and further letters have been received (see Appendix 3) from Chorley Paintbox a group of local amateur artists (w/c 5<sup>th</sup> November) and Marion Rawnsley (w/c/ 12<sup>th</sup> November) (see Appendix 3).

17. The general feedback and points raised include:
  - Lack of consultation and objection to the loss of the gallery.
  - General support for the Chorley Remembers project overall.
  - Concern regarding the future viability of a permanent exhibition in the gallery.
  - Lack of disabled access at Astley Hall gallery.
  - The Chorley Remembers exhibition should be situated in Astley Hall
  - Loss of gallery space for local groups / organisations
  - Lack of suitability of other rooms in the Coach House.
18. A meeting with the Lodge Artists has taken place and the use of Astley Hall as an alternative with increased opening hours has been agreed for 2012. For 2013 a similar solution has been proposed together with use of the other Coach House rooms to provide a 'taster' experience to draw visitors from the Coach House into the Hall.
19. A separate meeting was arranged with Glyn Davies from Chorley Photographic Society on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Attached in Appendix 4 are two letters received from the Chorley Photographic Society outlining their objection to and concerns regarding the proposed future use of the gallery. The society founded in 1894, has over a hundred members and has a national and international reputation as an amateur photographic society. The main concerns highlighted were the limited consultation, the loss of the gallery space and the viability of a permanent exhibition that could lose its appeal and attraction over time. They felt that there are other rooms within the Coach House that would be better suited for the Chorley Remembers exhibition. During the meeting arrangements for the society's annual exhibition were discussed that is booked in the Astley Hall gallery for 6 weeks starting July 2013. An option to offer extended opening days during this period, such as a Tuesday was discussed. The potential use of part of the Farmhouse was also discussed to potentially accommodate a permanent rotating exhibition space to display various photographic works.
20. On 20<sup>th</sup> November the Council Leader Alistair Bradley attended the Astley Advisory Group to listen to the group's feedback regarding the future use of the gallery for the Chorley Remembers project.
21. Should the gallery space be provided for the Chorley Remembers exhibition the Council will need to continue to work closely with affected local groups to provide suitable alternatives. This could be achieved by:
  - Adapting the Farmhouse building to provide an additional exhibition space.
  - Prioritising exhibition space in the Astley Hall gallery for local groups / artists.
  - Extending the opening hours for the Astley Hall gallery for local exhibitions.
  - Providing temporary exhibition space in the two other rooms in the Coach House and in the Townley Parker room at the Hall
  - Exploring other alternatives such as the use of other Council buildings and sites in the town centre.
22. The Chorley Remembers exhibition offers major investment of £78K and will provide a high quality exhibition that will appeal to a range of different people and ages and includes interactive displays and areas that can accommodate new and updated material. Approving the use of the gallery room for the Chorley Remembers exhibition will ensure that more funding is directed towards the display material rather than upgrading the electrical supply and lighting as was the case with the original proposal using Astley Hall.
23. Although the space in the gallery would be used by the Chorley Remembers exhibition on a longer term basis this would be subject to review after 2 years.

## PROPOSED WORKS

24. The work to accommodate the Chorley Remembers Exhibition in the Coach House Gallery is detailed in Appendix 5. The work will be commissioned and funded by Chorley Remembers through HLF funding and the Chorley Remembers Appeal fund. It is envisaged that this work will take approximately 8 weeks starting in January with completion in March. As part of the exhibition the memorial room at Astley hall will also be redecorated and new lights will be installed. This room will also include a new interpretation board outlining the work undertaken by Susannah Knight to create the original memorial books, known officially as the 'golden books'.
25. The Council's Planning Conservation officer has reviewed the proposed changes and has not raised any concerns.
26. As the gallery is owned by the Council, a license will be granted to Chorley Remembers to undertake the work and to ensure that the appropriate insurances are in place.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

27. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

## COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

28. The Chorley Remembers exhibition is fully funded through the Chorley Remembers HLF funding. The costs to provide alternative exhibition space or to adapt the Farmhouse will be met within existing budgets where possible. Any additional funding requirements will be reported to Members for approval.

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

29. None save to support the requirements included at paragraph 26.

JAMIE CARSON  
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Dixon	5250	29-11-2012	EMD CR Coach House Gallery

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.

*AW Bray*

Dated 11/12/12.

Councillor  
Executive Member Designation

# Appendix 1

James Cairns

Director, People and Planet

Charity Commission

12th September 2012

Dear Sir

I am writing to you on behalf of The Friends of Anley Park (FOAP) to outline the implementation of the terms of the Charity Commission's report which involves the sale and transfer of the property to the Charity House for residential use. A full and effective consultation has been carried out.

Our members appreciate and support the Resurgence Extension project, but are concerned that the proposed development affecting The Green House has not been subject to consultation with all interested parties, a fact which was acknowledged by Tony Wilson and James Dixon at the special meeting of The Anley Advisory Group held last week.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Hopwood

Vice Chair, Friends of Anley Park

James Dixon

Chair

FOAP

01577 21208

Jamie Carson,  
Director People and Places,  
Chorley Borough Council

12<sup>TH</sup> September 2012

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Friends of Astley Park(FOAP) to ask that the implementation of the element of the Chorley Remembers Project, which involves the sole and permanent use of The Gallery in the Coach House, be suspended until a full and effective consultation has been carried out.

Our members appreciate and support The Remembrance Experience Project, but are concerned that the proposed development affecting The Coach House has not been subject to consultation with all interested parties, a fact which was acknowledged by Peter Wilson and Jamie Dixon at the special meeting of The Astley Advisory Group held last week.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully.

Maurice Houghton  
Vice Chair. Friends of Astley Park

## Appendix 2

Date	Group	Name
21/07/2013	Individual	Thomas Boyd
22/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
23/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
24/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
25/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
26/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
27/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
28/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
29/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
30/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd
31/07/2013	Individual	John Boyd



<b>Name</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Date</b>
Rosmary Boyd	Individual	14/10/2012
Joan Dickinson	Individual	03/10/2012
John Harrison	Individual	03/10/2012
Boyd Harris	Individual	02/10/2012
Estelle Bryers	Individual	28/09/2012
Yvonne Curwen	Find your feet – walking for health	27/09/2012
Kath Almond	Individual	26/10/2012
Mike Coppin	Individual	19/11/2012

Appendix

## Jamie Dixon

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**From:** Jamie Carson  
**Sent:** 15 October 2012 09:36  
**To:** 'Rosemary Boyd'  
**Cc:** Alison Stringfellow; Jamie Dixon  
**Subject:** RE: Re Astley Hall Coach House

Hi Rosemary ... Jamie Dixon is coordinating the responses. Jamie is on leave at the moment; he is back in work on Tuesday, 23 October.

Alison ... please can you contact Rosemary and set a meeting up for when Jamie Dixon is back?

Rosemary ... is it possible to email your plan in advance of the meeting?

Thanks.

Jamie Carson  
Director People and Places  
Chorley Council

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**From:** Rosemary Boyd [<mailto:rosemary.boyd@chorley.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 15 October 2012 09:28  
**To:** Jamie Carson  
**Subject:** RE: Re Astley Hall Coach House

Hello Jamie

Thank you for your email. What is going happen when the responses have been looked at will there be a meeting / consultation. I did think you would be interested enough to look at the plan be evidently not but I do know people who are interested who would like to

look at the plan and have Astley Hall as the main War Memorial as was intended.

I would rather go through the council than go to an outside body as I see it you have not got time to deal with this situation so there is not much option.

Regards

Rosemary.

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**From:** Jamie Carson [<mailto:jamie.carson@chorley.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 15 October 2012 08:20  
**To:**  
**Subject:** re: Re Astley Hall Coach House

Hi Rosemary

Thanks for your email and comments, I'll make sure they are added to the other responses.

Sorry, but I've got back to back meetings most days this week.

Regards

Sent from my Blackberry

Jamie Carson  
Director of People and Places  
Chorley Council  
01257 515151

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**From:** Rosemary Boyd [<mailto:>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 08:11 PM  
**To:** Jamie Carson  
**Subject:** Re Astley Hall Coach House

Dear Jamie

I am contacting you on an individual basis. I know the Friends of Astley Park have already responded to the letter from Jamie Dixon but I would like to make a few points. I feel that Astley Hall is the war memorial and is the most fitting place for the Chorley Remembers group to have their exhibitions. I think the Chorley Remembers project is wonderful but the choice gallery is wrong and will have devastating effects on other groups. There are 4 rooms that can be used at Astley Hall

In the planning permission dated 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006 it states classroom, exhibition space and a shop associated with Astley Hall. I have contacted the HLF they said to contact you in first instance they are logging all concerns from the public on this matter. It is disappointing that Astley Hall has lost the shop. If the disabled access to Astley Hall is a problem for the Chorley Remembers visitors it would be the same for the local community and art groups going up stairs. The whole scheme of things needs to be re assessed as it is it very unfair the local artist and community..

I have made a plan which I would like you to see using Astley Hall for the purpose of a war memorial which was Reginald A. Tatton wish.

If you are free Monday on morning I can come in and see you.

Regards

Rosemary

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**Jamie Dixon**

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**From:** Joan Dickinson  
**Sent:** 03 October 2012 16:08  
**To:** Jamie Dixon  
**Cc:** JOHN HARRISON  
**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House.

Hello Jamie, I am contacting you on an individual basis, to add my support to John Harrison and Boyd Harris's comments regarding Astley Hall Coach House. I also was under the impression that the Coach House was to serve the needs of all local organisations, when required, not one specific body constantly. Every community organisation is special to its group, but this shouldn't be at the exclusion of others. Regards Joan Dickinson. Heathfields Heath Charnock.

## Jamie Dixon

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**From:** JOHN HARRISON  
**Sent:** 03 October 2012 10:24  
**To:** Jamie Dixon  
**Cc:** PeterRobinson; JoanDickinson; RosemaryBoyd; BoydHarris; Cllr Dennis Edgerley; Cllr Marion Lowe; Cllr Adrian Lowe; Cllr Terence Brown  
**Subject:** Re: Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Hi Jamie,

Having read Boyd Harris's email to you about Astley Hall Coach House, I want to add my support to his view of the Council's proposal. I am contacting you on an individual basis and copying this to my ward councillors.

It was my understanding that the excellent exhibition space at the Coach House was to serve the needs of all local community organisations. I do not think that it would be fair for one group to be favoured by being given exclusive use of this space and thereby disadvantaging all other local groups and organisations.

John Harrison  
12, Epsom Close  
Great Knowley  
Chorley

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**From:** Boyd Harris  
**To:** "jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk" <jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** PeterRobinson; JoanDickinson; JOHNHARRISON; RosemaryBoyd  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 October 2012, 16:21  
**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Hello Mr Dixon

I have received a copy of an email where you request feedback from various groups about the use of the exhibition room in the Coach House for the 'Chorley Remembers' project.

I thought I'd send you my thoughts as a private individual even though I am a member of Chorley Photographic Society and Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society.

It is usually difficult to get a group representation with such subjects as groups are a collection of individuals with varying opinions.

After considering the various options in your '27 September 2012, Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery' email I don't consider moving the exhibition space currently at the Coach House out to other venues as a sensible solution.

As an exhibition rooms it should remain as such. If the 'Chorley Remembers' project needs a room I don't see what is wrong with the Townley Parker room at Astley Hall.

If further work is needed to improve access to the room then this should be funded by the 'Chorley Remembers' project.

Boyd Harris  
Whittle-le-Woods

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** PETER ROBINSON  
**To:** JoanDickinson

JOHN HARRISON

BoydHarris

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 September 2012, 17:20  
**Subject:** Fw: Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Hi all,

Please see attached for any thoughts on the proposal.

Thanks

Peter

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Jamie Dixon <jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk>

**To:**

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 September 2012, 16:31

**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Dear Astley Advisory Group Member,

Further to the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September with the Astley Advisory Group to discuss the Chorley Remembers project, please find below further information regarding the use of the Gallery at the Coach House.

Originally, the Chorley Remembers exhibition was going to go in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. The main disadvantage of this is that there would be limited access for people with disabilities and it would require significant funding to be allocated to upgrading the electrics and information technology links. Therefore, the Council's preference is to house the exhibition in the Gallery room at the Coach House which already has disabled access and electrics in place.

The potential downside of moving the exhibition to the Gallery is the impact it has on other temporary exhibitions. However, the Council feel that this can be managed as follows:

- Focussing temporary exhibitions in the Astley Hall gallery on groups /artists with a local connection. We currently buy in some exhibitions and by focussing on local groups/artists we will be able to meet local requests in the spaces available.
- Purchasing some temporary exhibition display equipment that can be used in the two other rooms in the Coach House and also in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. This will increase the capacity to hold exhibitions at Astley Coach House and Astley Hall. This display equipment will also make it easier for exhibitions to be held in other locations within the Borough in, for example, the Lancastrian, empty shops, village halls etc.

The focus on local groups/artists and the potential to make better use of the 3 additional spaces, the gallery in the Hall and other spaces will increase opportunities for groups that have previously exhibited in the Gallery.

Together with the measures outlined above, the Council would also like to invite feedback and comments from groups representing Astley Hall and Park users. This will help to identify any further measures that can be considered to improve the exhibition space for local groups /artists. Please send any feedback /comments to myself by 15th October 2012 either by email to jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk or to the address below.

Jamie Dixon  
Chorley Council  
Town Hall  
Market Street

Chorley  
PR7 7DP

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Thanks,

Jamie

Jamie Dixon  
Head of Streetscene & Leisure Contracts  
Chorley Council

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## Jamie Dixon

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**From:** Boyd Harris  
**Sent:** 02 October 2012 16:22  
**To:** Jamie Dixon  
**Cc:** PeterRobinson; JoanDickinson; JOHNHARRISON; RosemaryBoyd  
**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Hello Mr Dixon

I have received a copy of an email where you request feedback from various groups about the use of the exhibition room in the Coach House for the 'Chorley Remembers' project.

I thought I'd send you my thoughts as a private individual even though I am a member of Chorley Photographic Society and Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society.  
It is usually difficult to get a group representation with such subjects as groups are a collection of individuals with varying opinions.

After considering the various options in your '27 September 2012, Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery' email I don't consider moving the exhibition space currently at the Coach House out to other venues as a sensible solution.

As an exhibition rooms it should remain as such. If the 'Chorley Remembers' project needs a room I don't see what is wrong with the Townley Parker room at Astley Hall.

If further work is needed to improve access to the room then this should be funded by the 'Chorley Remembers' project.

Boyd Harris  
Whittle-le-Woods

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** PETER ROBINSON

**To:** JoanDickinson

JOHN HARRISON

BoydHarris

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 September 2012, 17:20

**Subject:** Fw: Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Hi all,

Please see attached for any thoughts on the proposal.

Thanks

Peter

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Jamie Dixon <[jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk)>

**To:**

**Sent:** Thursday, 27 September 2012, 16:31

**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Dear Astley Advisory Group Member,

Further to the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September with the Astley Advisory Group to discuss the Chorley Remembers project, please find below further information regarding the use of the Gallery at the Coach House.



Originally, the Chorley Remembers exhibition was going to go in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. The main disadvantage of this is that there would be limited access for people with disabilities and it would require significant funding to be allocated to upgrading the electrics and information technology links. Therefore, the Council's preference is to house the exhibition in the Gallery room at the Coach House which already has disabled access and electrics in place.

The potential downside of moving the exhibition to the Gallery is the impact it has on other temporary exhibitions. However, the Council feel that this can be managed as follows:

- Focussing temporary exhibitions in the Astley Hall gallery on groups /artists with a local connection. We currently buy in some exhibitions and by focussing on local groups/artists we will be able to meet local requests in the spaces available.
- Purchasing some temporary exhibition display equipment that can be used in the two other rooms in the Coach House and also in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. This will increase the capacity to hold exhibitions at Astley Coach House and Astley Hall. This display equipment will also make it easier for exhibitions to be held in other locations within the Borough in, for example, the Lancastrian, empty shops, village halls etc.

The focus on local groups/artists and the potential to make better use of the 3 additional spaces, the gallery in the Hall and other spaces will increase opportunities for groups that have previously exhibited in the Gallery.

Together with the measures outlined above, the Council would also like to invite feedback and comments from groups representing Astley Hall and Park users. This will help to identify any further measures that can be considered to improve the exhibition space for local groups /artists. Please send any feedback /comments to myself by 15th October 2012 either by email to [jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk) or to the address below.

Jamie Dixon  
Chorley Council  
Town Hall  
Market Street  
Chorley  
PR7 7DP

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Thanks,

Jamie

Jamie Dixon  
Head of Streetscene & Leisure Contracts  
Chorley Council

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From: James  
Sent: 27 September 2011, 10:31  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: The Artway and Coach House - Gallery

Dear James,  
A few thoughts  
I was delighted when Chorley finally had a beautiful, accessible, appropriately situated exhibition space, the  
Coach House.  
I have been to most of the exhibitions and displays that people will  
The Access issues were the reason why it was so great that Chorley had an exhibition space in the Coach  
House.  
I agree that the other rooms seem to be under used, but they are meeting rooms, not gallery space. If  
Chorley Members want information on this would be best in their other rooms.

James James

From: James James  
Sent: 27 September 2011, 10:31  
Subject: The Artway and Coach House - Gallery

Dear James,  
James James

Further to the meeting on 27 September with the Artway Advisory Group to discuss the Library  
Members project, please find below further information regarding the use of the Gallery at the  
Coach House.

Originally, the Library Members exhibition was going to go in the Towsey Library room in the  
Hall. The main drawback of this is that there would be limited access for people with disabilities  
and it would require significant funding to be allocated to upgrading the electricity and information  
technology here. Therefore, the Council's preference is to house the exhibition in the Gallery room  
in the Coach House which already has disabled access and electricity in place.

The potential downside of moving the exhibition to the Gallery is the impact it has on other  
temporary exhibitions. However, the Council feel that this can be managed as follows:

- Increasing temporary exhibitions in the Artway Hall gallery as groups learn with a local  
connection. We currently buy in some exhibitions and by focusing on local group/exhibitors we will  
be able to meet local capacity in the space available.
- Purchasing some temporary exhibition display equipment that can be used in the two other  
rooms in the Coach House and also in the Towsey Library room in the Hall. This will increase the  
capacity to hold exhibitions in Artway Coach House and Artway Hall. This display equipment will  
also make it easier for exhibitors to be held in other locations within the township in the future.  
The Council will make every effort to ensure this.

The focus on local group/exhibitors and the potential to make more use of the 3 exhibition spaces in the  
gallery in the Hall and other spaces will increase opportunities for groups that have previously  
exhibited in the Gallery.

## Jamie Dixon

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**From:** e bryers  
**Sent:** 28 September 2012 22:02  
**To:** Jamie Dixon  
**Subject:** Re: Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Dear Jamie.

A few thoughts.

I was delighted when Chorley finally had a beautiful, accessible, appropriately situated exhibition space, the Coach House.

I have been to most of the exhibitions, and brought other people to it.

The Access issues were the reason why it was so great that Chorley has an exhibition space in the Coach House.

I agree that the other rooms seem to be under used, but they are meeting rooms, not gallery space. If Chorley Remembers need information then this would be better in these other rooms.

Estelle Bryers

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**From:** Jamie Dixon <[jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk)>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 September 2012, 16:31  
**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

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- Purchasing some temporary exhibition display equipment that can be used in the two other rooms in the Coach House and also in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. This will increase the capacity to hold exhibitions at Astley Coach House and Astley Hall. This display equipment will also make it easier for exhibitions to be held in other locations within the Borough in, for example, the Lancastrian, empty shops, village halls etc.

The focus on local groups/artists and the potential to make better use of the 3 additional spaces, the gallery in the Hall and other spaces will increase opportunities for groups that have previously exhibited in the Gallery.

Together with the measures outlined above, the Council would also like to invite feedback and comments from groups representing Astley Hall and Park users. This will help to identify any further measures that can be considered to improve the exhibition space for local groups /artists. Please send any feedback /comments to myself by 15th October 2012 either by email to [jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk) or to the address below.

Jamie Dixon  
Chorley Council  
Town Hall  
Market Street  
Chorley  
PR7 7DP

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Thanks,

Jamie

Jamie Dixon  
Head of Streetscene & Leisure Contracts  
Chorley Council

☎ 01257 515151 | 🌐 [www.chorley.gov.uk](http://www.chorley.gov.uk)

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Chorley Council may monitor e-mails sent or received.

## Jamie Dixon

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**From:** YVONNE CURWEN  
**Sent:** 27 September 2012 18:24  
**To:** Jamie Dixon  
**Cc:** Sarah Leach; GwynethTench  
**Subject:** Re: Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Hello Jamie,

I am not sure about the background to this, but know that there is a permanent exhibition in Astley Hall, commemorating the Chorley Pals, so I would presume the obvious place for the Chorley Remembers project would be Astley Hall, assuming that it is to be a permanent exhibition. You must forgive my lack of knowledge on this, but I was not at the meeting, so am trying to catch up, and read your mind on it. If the Chorley Remembers project is to be a temporary display, during winter months, then I can see no reason why it can not be positioned in the Coach House gallery, which would mean it could be available for people to view all week, rather than two part days at the week-end. An even better space could be the class-room downstairs in the Coach House, as it would be very easily accessible to all visitors, whether they have a disability or not, thus leaving the gallery room in the Coach House free as a class-room. Just a suggestion.

I hope the above has been helpful.

regards

Yvonne Curwen

Find Your Feet - Walking for Health.

**From:** Jamie Dixon <[jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk)>  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 September 2012, 16:31  
**Subject:** Astley Hall Coach House - Gallery

Dear Astley Advisory Group Member,

Further to the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September with the Astley Advisory Group to discuss the Chorley Remembers project, please find below further information regarding the use of the Gallery at the Coach House.

Originally, the Chorley Remembers exhibition was going to go in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. The main disadvantage of this is that there would be limited access for people with disabilities and it would require significant funding to be allocated to upgrading the electrics and information technology links. Therefore, the Council's preference is to house the exhibition in the Gallery room at the Coach House which already has disabled access and electrics in place.

The potential downside of moving the exhibition to the Gallery is the impact it has on other temporary exhibitions. However, the Council feel that this can be managed as follows:

- Focussing temporary exhibitions in the Astley Hall gallery on groups /artists with a local connection. We currently buy in some exhibitions and by focussing on local groups/artists we will be able to meet local requests in the spaces available.
- Purchasing some temporary exhibition display equipment that can be used in the two other rooms in the Coach House and also in the Townley Parker room at the Hall. This will increase the capacity to hold exhibitions at Astley Coach House and Astley Hall. This display equipment will also make it easier for exhibitions to be held in other locations within the Borough in, for example, the Lancastrian, empty shops, village halls etc.

The focus on local groups/artists and the potential to make better use of the 3 additional spaces, the gallery in the Hall and other spaces will increase opportunities for groups that have previously exhibited in the Gallery.

Together with the measures outlined above, the Council would also like to invite feedback and comments from groups representing Astley Hall and Park users. This will help to identify any further measures that can be considered to improve the exhibition space for local groups /artists. Please send any feedback /comments to myself by 15th October 2012 either by email to [jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.dixon@chorley.gov.uk) or to the address below.

Jamie Dixon  
Chorley Council  
Town Hall  
Market Street  
Chorley  
PR7 7DP

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Thanks,

Jamie

Jamie Dixon  
Head of Streetscene & Leisure Contracts  
Chorley Council

☎ 01257 515151 | 🌐 <http://www.chorley.gov.uk/>

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26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Jamie Dixon  
Head of Streetscene and Leisure Contracts  
Chorley Council  
Town Hall  
Market Street  
Chorley PR7 7DP

Dear Mr Dixon

**ASTLEY HALL COACH HOUSE: GALLERY**

I have only just become aware of the proposal to house the Chorley Remembers exhibition permanently in the Coach House Gallery. Although I am a member of several societies, I felt I should write to you as an individual, as it affects individuals who visit the Gallery in addition to those who exhibit.

The Chorley Remembers project is magnificent, as was the Chorley Pals project. The statue on the Flat Iron brought history to life, and, in my eyes, improved the status of Chorley. The memorial in Astley Park will also be another important achievement, adding to Chorley's standing.

However, whilst I would have no objection to the Chorley Remembers project being displayed in the Gallery temporarily, I think afterwards it should be found a permanent room at Astley Hall, itself a memorial to the people of Chorley.

The Coach House Gallery is accessible and modern, and ideal for temporary exhibitions.

Whatever decision is made, one group of people will be disadvantaged by the fact that there is limited access for people with disabilities.

Yours sincerely

Kath Almond

To :- Jamie Dixon

CBC

**Astley Hall Coach House Gallery**

I am sorry that I was unavailable for the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September at the Coach House and I thank you for your email to which my feedback is :-

1. I am unable to understand your logic for this change being due to electrics, IT & disabled access as it is the same for both exhibitions surely ? What you really seem to be saying is that the Council has a preference for the Chorley Remembers project ? But has the Chorley public been consulted, and do they agree ?
2. My personal view is that the Chorley Remembers project is what one might describe as a 'static' show which once seen is not visited again for some length of time or until known that significant additions/changes have occurred, whereas the current Gallery is a look on every visit to the Coach House.
3. As the Chorley Remembers project is historical with minimal change it is surely more fitting in the historical environment of Astley Hall.
4. I would have thought that the Council would wish to keep the Coach House as 'multi-use' as possible for the encompassment of as big a range of activities as possible and not hamper this objective by taking space out of use with a permanent exhibition.
5. I have no idea what the Gallery costs are for an exhibition but I have no doubt that they are substantially less than the Lancastrian, empty shops, village halls etc with all the additional advertising , organisation and directions to be done. Effectively this would reduce the number of temporary exhibitions drastically unless the Council has some proposals of financial equitation.
6. I assume that this change accords with the funding criteria given to rebuild the Coach House ? ie was the funding bid made for a temporary exhibition or a permanent one ?
7. Finally I do declare that I have a sense of 'imposition without discussion'....although I accept that discussion is now happening, but it still feels as if this is a faite accompli. I remain to be convinced that the Chorley citizenship would agree this change if asked !

Mike Coppin

Astley Advisory Group Member.



# Appendix 3

Head of Department & Liaison Officer

Dr. [Name]

As a group of members of the staff with interest and concern for the staff House  
I have been asked to write to you regarding the staff House. We understand the staff House  
is a very important part of the staff House and we are pleased to hear that you are  
interested in it. We will be happy to discuss the staff House with you and to  
provide you with any information you may require. We will be happy to discuss  
the staff House with you and to provide you with any information you may require.

The staff House is a very important part of the staff House and we are pleased to  
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happy to discuss the staff House with you and to provide you with any information  
you may require. We will be happy to discuss the staff House with you and to  
provide you with any information you may require. We will be happy to discuss  
the staff House with you and to provide you with any information you may require.

A meeting of the staff House will be held on the 15th of the month and the  
minutes of the meeting will be sent to you. We will be happy to discuss the  
staff House with you and to provide you with any information you may require.  
We will be happy to discuss the staff House with you and to provide you with  
any information you may require. We will be happy to discuss the staff House  
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provide you with any information you may require. We will be happy to discuss  
the staff House with you and to provide you with any information you may require.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not  
hesitate to contact me. I will be happy to discuss the staff House with you  
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discuss the staff House with you and to provide you with any information you  
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the staff House with you and to provide you with any information you may require.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Jamie Dixon

Head of Streetscene & Leisure Contracts

**Re - Astley Hall Coach House – Gallery**

As a group of amateur artist, we note with interest and concern the plans for the Coach House Gallery. Some of our members have exhibited work there in the past and are disconcerted by the proposed changes and the way in which they have come about. We understood the gallery to be a purpose built venue, for local artists on a rotational **temporary** basis and to allocate it to **one** permanent exhibition of *'any kind'* infringes the original intentions

Liaison with similar groups in Chorley informs us that there has been no consultation about the proposed changes, even with those groups who had pre-booked the venue for displays. Surely, this is bad practice and discourteous to say the least.

You have said by way of justification that the original intended venue for 'The Remembrance Experience Project', i.e. the Townley Parker room, was found to be unsuitable because it lacked access for the disabled and is too expensive to modify. Access for the disabled is obviously an important consideration. However, this should have been taken into account when the 'Remembrance Project' was first proposed. Surely, a venue close to the town centre, near the provision of disability vehicles and transport facilities would have ensured that a *far greater proportion* of the disabled and the general public would have had the opportunity to visit the exhibition. It would also have provided easier access for the majority of the educational establishments in town.

A location at the far end of Astley Park, away from both the Market Memorial and the Cenotaph demands that the public either have to walk a considerable distance or have to have access to their own transport in order to see the exhibition as either an integrated or a single experience.

If the correct consultation procedure had taken place initially, the above points could have been openly discussed and options may have been explored which avoided altering the designation of an excellent purpose built venue for temporary Art Exhibitions. The alternative, retrospective suggestions for these exhibitions, e.g. the Townley Parker room, just do not compare with the Court House Gallery either in terms of light, practicality, expense or convenience and frequency of access. It would also seem that disabled access is a priority for permanent exhibitions but not for temporary ones.

We feel that it is an insult that these alternative suggestions are now being proposed at this late date because of the letters of complaints from interested parties who were not originally consulted.

It is little wonder that people are apathetic about the quality of democratic processes at both national and local level.

Members of Chorley Paintbox, a local art group

Replies please to

'Chorley Paintbox',

11 November, 2012

Dear Mr Bradley,

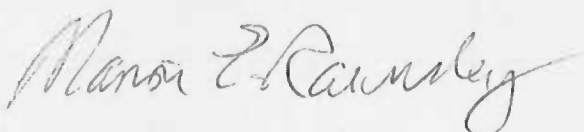
I am writing to register my great concern about the proposed change of use of the Coach House Gallery. I have only just heard of this proposal and am completely at a loss as to why the Council should think this is justified. As a resident of Chorley for over thirty eight years, I very much welcomed the development of the Coach House after seeing its years of decline. A bright spot of culture in Chorley is exactly what the town needed.

There does not appear to have been wide consultation about this proposal. I have not read of it in the press and, indeed, have only just heard of it by chance. Presumably other residents and Council Tax payers are in the same position.

I have just returned from the Service of Remembrance at St Laurence's Church and the ceremony held at the Cenotaph. I very much appreciate what has been done in the park with regard to the wall of names and also the recognition given to the Chorley Pals with the statue and garden on the Flat Iron. These are all fitting memorials marking the suffering caused by war.

However, to wipe out the Arts as represented in the Gallery with yet another display concerning war creates an imbalance which is a retrograde step for the town as a whole. I trust the Council, under your leadership, will consider more carefully the views of the people it represents before any action is taken.

Yours sincerely,



Marion Rawnsley

# Chorley Photographic Society

## Appendix 4



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22 October 2012

Dear Sir,

The Gallery at the Coach House

I write to you on behalf of Chorley Photographic Society to request that the  
implementation of any proposal to purchase and installation of the Coach House  
Gallery be suspended until a decision has been reached on the proposal.  
Chorley Photographic Society has been advised that the potential loss of the  
Gallery is a matter of great concern to the members of the Society and that  
any decision to purchase and install the Coach House Gallery is a matter of  
great importance to the Society and its members. We therefore request that you  
to any proposal which involves the purchase and installation of the Coach House  
Gallery.

Yours faithfully

Yours faithfully



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Chorley Photographic Society  
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# Chorley Photographic Society

Registered Charity; 701819. Established 1896

Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union

Jamie Dixon  
Head of Streetscene & Leisure Contracts  
Chorley Borough Council  
Civic Offices, Union Street  
CHORLEY, Lancashire  
PR7 1AL



LOTTERY FUNDED

31 October 2012

Dear Sir,

## The Gallery at the Coach House

I write to you on behalf of Chorley Photographic Society to request that the implementation of any change to the usage and availability of the Coach House Gallery be suspended until proper consultation has been undertaken.

Chorley Photographic Society views with alarm and dismay the potential loss of this facility. Furthermore we are extremely disturbed by the complete lack of prior consultation and would welcome the opportunity to express our strong opposition to any proposal which reduces the availability of gallery and exhibition space in Chorley.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Glyn Davies'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a large, faint watermark of the Chorley Photographic Society logo, which features a camera lens and a film strip.

**Glyn Davies** BA (Hons), ASA, ASP  
Past President, Chorley Photographic Society



Copy: Lindsey Hoyle MP  
Councillor Alistair Bradley

# Chorley Photographic Society

Registered Charity; 701819. Established 1896

Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union

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Councillor Alistair Bradley  
84 Hamilton Road  
Chorley  
PR7 2TJ



LOTTERY FUNDED

08 November 2012

Dear Councillor Bradley,

## The Gallery at the Coach House

I recently sent you a copy of a letter which I wrote to Jamie Dixon about the Gallery at Astley Park Coach House.

I subsequently met with Jamie Dixon and Chris Bryan at Astley Hall. We had a frank and thorough discussion about the change of use of the Coach House Gallery. During the meeting Jamie offered in mitigation for the loss of the facility with regard to Chorley Photographic Society, the possibility of extending the opening of Astley Hall during the period of our Annual Exhibition so that there would be two additional days in the week when the public would be able to see our exhibition. He also suggested that we explore the possible use of the "Farm House" to house a rotating exhibition of photographic work.

Despite these suggestions – which were welcome - Jamie remained unable to allay our initial concerns and he was made aware that, at the behest of my committee and members, I would be escalating the issue to you, as Leader of the Council and final decision maker.

I understand that you will shortly be making a decision as to the future of the Coach House and I would respectfully ask you to include in your deliberations the following points which I raised with Jamie on behalf of my members:

- Firstly none of these comments imply any criticism of "Chorley Remembers", who have done an admirable job with the "Pals Memorial" and the Memorial in Astley Park.
- The criticisms are directed entirely at the actions of the Council.
- We are very disturbed by the lack of a proper inclusive consultative process.
- "Chorley Remembers" is a voluntary organisation, and as such should be treated in the same way as all the other interested parties.
- Although Chorley PS was not invited to the recent meeting with some interested parties, we are led to understand that it was not a consultation but a statement of the Council's intentions.

# Chorley Photographic Society

Registered Charity; 701819. Established 1896

Affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain through the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union

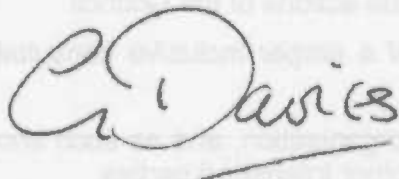
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- The Coach House was developed with Lottery funding, its purpose being for Community use and for the benefit of the citizens of Chorley. Ceding it to a single organisation prevents its use by the majority of the town's organisations.
- The Coach House Gallery has been the venue for an excellent series of arts exhibitions and as such has been a beacon for the Arts in Chorley. The Arts had been very ill-served in Chorley prior to the opening of the Coach House. It is deeply regrettable that the Council appears to view a return to that former state with equanimity.
- We have yet to be presented with evidence of any merit in the proposed reassignment of the Gallery.
- We do not believe that there is a valid reason for replacing a vibrant series of ever-changing artistic displays with a static, single subject exhibition which, experience shows, will over the course of time cease to attract visitors or interest.
- There are other rooms in the same building which would serve equally well as accommodation without taking over the existing completed facility.
- We are opposed to the change of use of the Coach House Gallery.

I should add that as a Society which has had over a hundred years of association with Chorley and is becoming respected throughout the country and abroad as one of the leading photographic societies in the UK, we are outraged at the retrograde step which this move represents, and particularly distressed by the high handed and undemocratic way that the Council has acted in pushing it forward without considering any feedback from the interested organisations and citizens of Chorley.

Copy: Lindsay Hoyle MP  
Jamie Dixon  
Chris Bryan

Yours sincerely



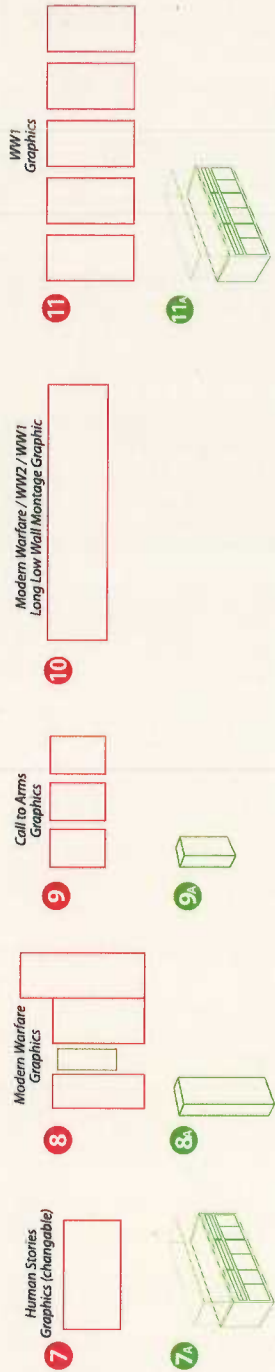
**Glyn Davies** BA (Hons), ASA, ASP  
Past President, Chorley Photographic Society

# Appendix 5

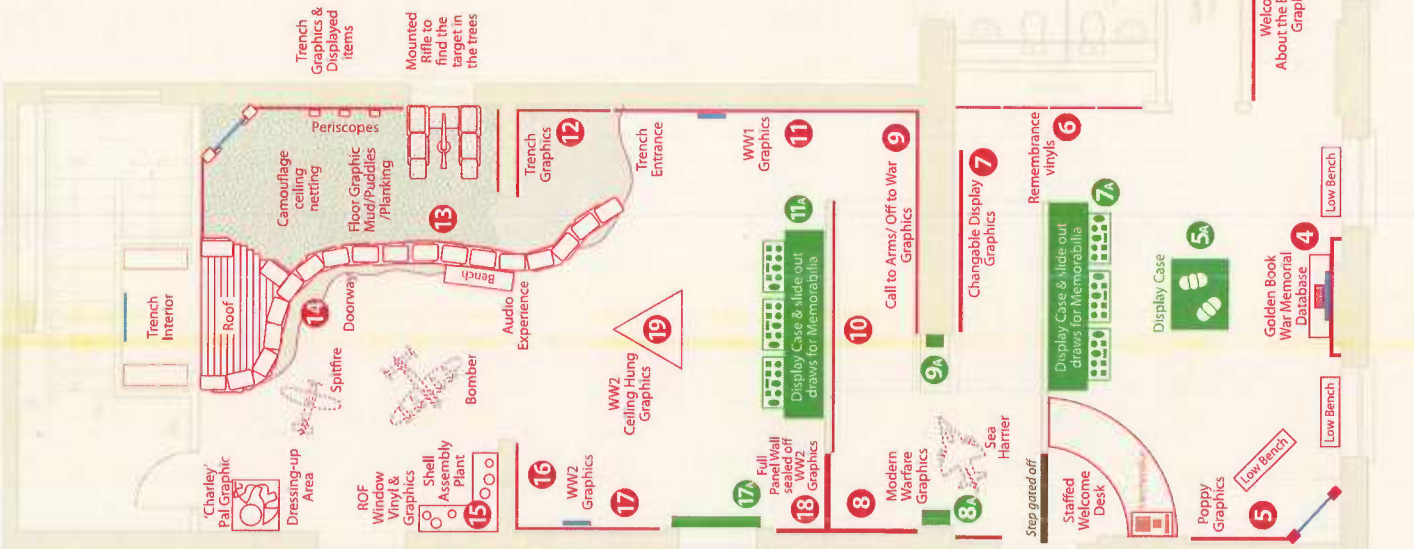
Diagram 1  
Diagram 2







— Monitor/Touch Screen  
— Display Case



Window Graphics?

Large Wall Graphic?

Welcome - About the Exhibition Graphics

New War Memorial Window Graphic

1 WW1 - Afghanistan Timeline Graphic

Low Bench

Low Bench

Low Bench

Golden Book War Memorial Database

Low Bench

Low Bench

Display Case

Low Bench

Low Bench

Display Case & Slide out drawers for Memorabilia

Low Bench

Low Bench

Remembrance Vinyls

Low Bench

Low Bench

Changeable Display Graphics

Low Bench

Low Bench

Call to Arms/ Off to War Graphics

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Low Bench

WW2 Ceiling Hung Graphics

Low Bench

Low Bench

WW1 Graphics

Low Bench

Low Bench

Display Case & Slide out drawers for Memorabilia

Low Bench

Low Bench

Full Panel/Wall Slide out WW2 Graphics

Low Bench

Low Bench

Modern Warfare Graphics

Low Bench

Low Bench

WW2 Graphics

Low Bench

Low Bench

WW2 Graphics

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Low Bench

WW2 Graphic

Low Bench

Low Bench

Trench Graphics

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Low Bench

Trench Graphics

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ROF Graphics

Low Bench

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Trench Graphics

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WW2 Graphics

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