

2 April 2009

Mytholmroyd Memorial Gardens

Mytholmroyd Memorial Gardens are to be revitalised as part of an ambitious regeneration scheme.

The project, jointly run by Calderdale Council and Royd Regeneration, will improve the appearance of the Memorial Gardens, encourage greater use and enjoyment by residents and visitors, and promote the heritage of the village.

A further important aim is to provide an accessible route for disabled people between Burnley Road and the Medical Centre.

The gardens will be completely re-modelled with a modern design answering current and future needs for this important green space, creating an attractive and appropriate setting for the memorial statue.

Anne Holdsworth, Environmental Projects Officer, Calderdale Council, said;

“The Memorial Gardens – which were officially opened in 1922 – occupy a central and prominent location in the village and have been restored on several occasions over the years.

“The Grade II listed war memorial statue is a well known and well loved local landmark and an important visual focal point for this part of Mytholmroyd.

“The gardens have always been well used, representing rare and valuable green space in the village centre.”

A large central gathering space around the statue will be paved with locally quarried natural sandstone, allowing space for people to gather together for Memorial services, and other formal or informal gatherings. New seating will be provided around the edge of this central paved area.



Stone materials will be consistent with those used to construct the nearby St Michaels Square, chosen to reflect nearby building materials and traditional paving methods. New stone flags and steps will provide a level, easy walking surface.

Ambient lighting of the new Square will be improved by the provision of 4 new lighting columns, and in addition the Memorial statue will be lit by ground-level spot lights.

The statue will be repaired as part of the works to improve the gardens, and a separate listed building application will be submitted to cover proposed repairs.

Other proposed improvements include:

- The rectangular area of grass in front of the Medical centre will be remodelled, allowing potential further seating. This area is intended to be home to the future installation of public artwork which is subject to a separate planning application.
- Pedestrian access into the site from Burnley Road will be widened.
- New pathways will be created, with seating at various points, providing alternative easily accessible routes around the gardens.

Jade Smith, Secretary of Royd Regeneration, said;

“This project is threefold. Firstly, the garden is in desperate need of some TLC so we’ll be bringing in new plants and trees.

“The second is to allow disabled access to the medical centre without wheelchair users and people with pushchairs having to go through the car park which is dangerous.

“Finally, the refurbishment will lead to a large central gathering space around the statue so people attending the armistice service don’t have to spill out into the main road.”

Eric Alston, Chair of Royd Regeneration, said;

“We have been working on this project for about sixteen months now and I look forward to seeing the completion of the scheme. It will turn the gardens into an attractive, multi-purpose space, making Mytholmroyd a better place to live work and visit.”



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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