Adopt a Monument Scheme:

Previous examples:
- English Heritage (often school-based and directed at larger recognised sites)
  e.g. Stonehenge, Chysauster, Clifford’s Tower, Kenilworth Castle

- Scottish Archaeology
  (formal scheme involving extensive joint work, funding applications and training to create heritage support groups.)
  e.g. Digging the Scene, Edinburgh; Minding Merkinch Archaeology Project
The Merton context:
• Wide range of historic structures
• Some site cared for / monitored by LBM and English Heritage
• Sites where responsibility is unclear
• Such sites are an integral part of Merton’s heritage. They should be preserved, recorded and interpreted for posterity.

Value of a Merton scheme:
• Potential for greater public access to local heritage
• Linking monuments and communities in a mutually beneficial way

Public benefits:
• Use of existing skills and potential for professional development
• Opportunities for socialising, confidence building, lifelong learning
• Direct access to historical material / supports National curriculum
• Heritage awareness and involvement
• Improvements to local environment / pride of place
Monument benefits:

- Site better recorded and understood
- Regular monitoring v vandalism / environmental change
- Public value surviving heritage
- Potential for ongoing management
- Increased public access / awareness
- Creation of dedicated support team

Pilot scheme ( Autumn 2016 )

- Monument adopted by local school, community group, residents
  - Basic ( regular ) monitoring of site – reporting system re. damage / change
  - Regular site visits
  - Site research – via Local Studies Centre / local museums and heritage contacts
  - Adopting group helps to raise awareness of site ( signage, leaflets, web material, displays and / or social media )
Issues to consider:

- Appropriate support network
- Supervision of volunteers
- Funding / capacity
- Sustainability
- Legal requirements
- Access v safety and security
- Assessment of monuments / potential adopting groups

Support sources:

- LBM – Heritage, Environment & Regeneration, Planning, Communications, Legal
- Historic England
- Regional Archaeological Unit
- Local museums and societies
- Diocesan authorities
- Special interest groups
- Landowners / property owners
- Local schools and colleges
- Local media
Carved in Stone Project Update
Project Update:

• New equipment – reader printers, hand scanner, audio-visual equipment

• Project Development Officer

• 28 volunteers (aged 15 – 70+) have worked on the project

• Volunteers training: induction, local history, use of reader-printer, newspaper digitisation and review, research guidance (LSC / Nat. Archives, ) oral history training, filming, interview, transcription, editing

• Participation in a wide range of outreach activities across the borough

• Clear branding and good media presence – Guardian, SW Londoner, stakeholder sites, My Merton, websites, J C Deceaux panels

• 350 combatant profiles to date, with more under way
• 3 War Story Days held – attended by 800 people

• 18 interviews recorded, transcribed and films edited and images / memorabilia recorded

• Digitisation and review of nearly 100 months worth of 5 WW1 newspapers

Contact with collection holders who will share resources with project including:
• Museum of Wimbledon
• John Innes Society
• Rutlish School
• KCS
• St.Mary’s, Merton; St. Mary’s, Wimbledon
• Chris Burge
• U3A
• Researchers re. Mitcham defences

• Cataloguing of Museum of Wimbledon WW1 collection

• Conservation of 44 WW1 items to a high standard allowing display and handling
• Production of 3 Merton at War maps and a CIS Heritage Trail

• Guided walk and Remembrance weekend activities staged with good attendance / feedback

• E-Newsletter

• Townsweb Archiving Ltd appointed at web contractor
  - preparing Pastview system and web design.

• Contact with 7 Merton schools for feedback re. resources

• Recognition of the value of the project – Volunteer awards, Merton Excellence Awards
Project Schedule: CIS Website

February:
• Input combatant data to spreadsheet; Write up “Additional information” and “Home Front”;
• Review of written work; Selection of images and permissions sought;
• Skeleton entries for 100 – 150 combatants
• TWA upload of basic data

March:
• Pastview training
• Complete combatant /Home Front info - input to Pastview and upload images
• Proofing and checks for upload errors

April:
• User Testing – Project board, volunteers, stakeholders, random testing
• Completion of inputting and image upload prior to launch
• TWA amendments following feedback

May:
• Promotion
• CIS Launch and demos to public
Heritage Discovery Day / CIS Web Launch: Saturday 28 May 2016

10.30 – 12.00: Formal web launch for volunteers, heritage stakeholders & VIPS
(includes buffet)

12.30 – 4.30: Heritage Discovery Day (Public event)

Featuring: displays, film screenings, talks, children’s activities, interactives for all ages, CIS web demos and heritage marketplace.

Who can help on 27 or 28 May?

Roles:
• Content ideas / Promotion
• Help with set-up
• Meet and greet
• Help with refreshments
• Invigilation
• Activities / Meet the team (tbc)
• Web tasters
• Photos / Evaluation