

Good day,

Can the Council please advise if or when the consultation with the residents of Shubenacadie and other interested parties will commence in relation to the redevelopment of the 'parking lot' around the Cenotaph? For clarity I refer to the original site of the Cenotaph.

The issue of the Council not consulting with anyone in relation to the inappropriate movement of the Cenotaph to the Legion has been covered in numerous previous Council meetings but has yet to be properly addressed.

From my understanding from previous Council meetings, it was stated that the area immediately around the Cenotaph would need to be made 'accessible' as part of the development of the whole site. Not doing this at this opportunity would be self-defeating and not proactively managing the site to be safe and accessible, while respecting the Cenotaph and the original layout/design as much as possible. There was no indication of what 'accessible' means in terms of paths or routes around the monument, although it was mentioned that currently it is difficult for some to walk right up to the Cenotaph and not being able to use the steps. Should the steps be removed and the area immediately in front of the Cenotaph be a paved slope to allow access to those with limited mobility?

It would essentially be at no cost as the parking lot is apparently budgeted at \$500,000, which in my view, is absurd amount of money to be spent on a parking lot for a very small number of vehicles, in a location where people already park regardless of it being paved or not. I would be interested to see the studies which support that having a paved parking lot will attract businesses. I digress.

There was also some discussion regarding the serviceability of the current steps and if they should be replaced. It could be argued that these issues should have been addressed before now, as it has been established that the Council has owned the site for around 20 years and any maintenance has possibly been their responsibility. Now ownership has been recognized by the Council, they should be proactive in their responsibilities towards the safety and accessibility of the Cenotaph as liability, rightly, is a key driver.

If this redevelopment including the provision of accessibility is to take place, as it should, this is potentially going to change the layout of the area immediately around the Cenotaph as it may need some landscaping to alter the profile of the site.

This raises several questions and is the Council going to publish a revised or previous plan of the proposed parking lot and is there going to be an opportunity for input from residents into this?

I reluctantly accept that the Cenotaph will be moved as and when the weather and contractor can make it happen, provided there is no further unwarranted delay. If the move is delayed due to other reasons, such as the anticipated redevelopment, then this should be made public along with the opportunity to engage with the residents and other interested parties.

It is my personal belief that the redevelopment of the parking lot and environs around the Cenotaph has been completely mismanaged and could have been an opportunity to not only update, renovate and improve the Cenotaph, which long overdue, along with its environs, but it was also a missed opportunity to have the Legion and residents engage in a community project, with support from the Council and Legion to raise funds (if required), as seen elsewhere in East Hants.