

The Enniskillen Memorial Project



Macaulay Associates Network Ltd

Ely Centre Memorial Project Feasibility Study:

Final Report

Introduction

Memorials are a social and physical arrangement of spaces and artefacts, which are designed to keep alive the memories of persons and events, especially those that significantly impact upon a society. How society assimilate memories and experiences of conflict through memorials in a post-conflict environment draws attention to issues of solidarity, acknowledgment, respect and remembrance. The erection of sites of memory and the way in which the experiences of violent conflict are respected and remembered have implications for a post conflict society attempting to build a genuinely shared future with long-term peace and prosperity at its heart. Dealing with the legacy of conflict in Northern Ireland requires a particular attention on those who have experienced pain and suffering in the past and their part in building a peaceful future.

The design and erection of a new memorial to those who died as a result of the Enniskillen or Poppy Day bomb of 1987 is therefore a project of considerable importance, whose impact and legacy on both the families of those killed, and the wider community, will be substantial. This research considered questions and issues

that reflect attitudes towards the erection of a new memorial and 'Troubles' related memories in general. The strengths and weaknesses of a society are represented most vividly in periods of conflict and the representation of such conflict in memorials is a symbol of society's attitudes and responses to such violence. It is therefore imperative that the erection of a new memorial to remember the tragic events of November 8th 1987 takes into account all factors that may affect its representation, design and construction. This report, based on a series of workshops, interviews and questionnaires contributes towards this process.

Background

November 8th 1987 will be remembered as one of the darkest days in Northern Ireland's history. As participants and spectators gathered for the annual act of Remembrance and wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph in Enniskillen town centre a bomb planted by the IRA exploded causing death and destruction on a devastating scale. The attack, which occurred at 10.43 on Remembrance Sunday morning, killed a total of 12 people and injured countless others, both physically and mentally. Many of those affected still live with those physical and mental scars everyday of their lives. Since that fateful day victims, families and friends have been involved in a 25-year campaign to see a permanent memorial erected in memory of those who were killed and injured. The Ely Centre has highlighted that as the years have gone by and the number of people who were victims on that day has become smaller the desire to see a memorial erected becomes has become greater. As a result of this the Ely Centre

commissioned this feasibility study to ascertain the views, opinions and thoughts of a broad range of stakeholders in relation to the construction of a new memorial to remember the Poppy Day bomb attack of 1987.

Methodology

Stephen Herron of Macaulay Associates Network was assigned to carry out the project. A broad methodological approach was used in the construction of this report, as Moore (1978), writing on field research strategies, highlights, there is a need for 'a research strategy which is flexible as to precise location and method and aims to compare the usefulness of various theoretical approaches for understanding what is happening, rather than to impose a set of narrowly defined theoretical questions' (Moore 1978: 272).

This report is based on the findings from desk research, a series of group-based workshops facilitated by both the Ely Centre and South East Fermanagh Foundation and individual interviews. Participants included representatives of the bereaved, politicians, community and cultural groups and members of the business community, staff and members of the Ely Centre, victims' bodies and veterans associations. Regional Development Minister Danny Kennedy MLA was consulted, primarily in relation to issues surrounding planning and potential location issues surrounding any memorial construction and the President of Enniskillen Rotary Club also took part in an interview. A list of interviewees and workshop dates are included in Appendix I.

Several stakeholders declined or did not respond to the request to be involved in the research.¹

Desk research involved background analysis of the Enniskillen bomb attack of 1987, previous work on memorials and commemoration and relevant policy related publications. The bibliography follows the appendices.

Workshops involved the use of a PowerPoint demonstration to structure and direct conversation amongst workshop attendees. A series of questions and images/photos of other memorials around the world were presented to workshop participants to trigger thoughts, opinions and interactions. The style of the workshops was informal to encourage as much discussion and expression of opinion as possible. The interview and workshop questions are in Appendix II.

50 questionnaires were sent to the membership of the Ely Centre and South East Fermanagh Foundation. The questionnaire is in Appendix III. 27 questionnaires were returned and analysed.

Approximately 70 individuals participated in the research as a whole.

¹ Several local schools (Pretora Royal School, Collegiate Grammar School, Mount Lourdes Grammar School) were invited to participate in the research. Although none of the schools got involved, several young people from local schools participated in workshops. The Royal Ulster Academy was contacted to gain information relating to memorial designers, however no response has been received to date. The local Council was invited to participate but felt it was inappropriate to do so because they provided the funding for this study.

Findings from fieldwork

The research found evidence of significant levels of disenchantment and disappointment at the failure to erect a memorial over the past 25 years. *This has resulted in a lack of confidence and trust in wider policy and decision-making processes.*

Discussions in workshops and interviews began on themes relating to the current war memorial in the town and the erection of doves on this memorial to remember those who lost their lives as a result of the attack. The overwhelming majority of participants stated that the war memorial in Enniskillen is there to honour those soldiers who perished in wars throughout the world, and therefore, *a separate memorial would be better.* A number of respondents commented that this was the only war memorial in the world to refer to a non-war/military incident. *While there was consensus among respondents that the doves should never have been placed on the memorial in the first place, and actually caused the families of those killed even greater heartache, there was less agreement on whether the doves should now be removed.* Some felt that the memorial should not be touched again and the doves left as they are. One respondent referred to the colour of the doves and stated that perhaps if they were to remain that they should be painted white to actually reflect the colour of doves.

A number of young people who participated in the research commented that the maintenance of the doves might also be a positive move, as it would help the current war memorial to seem more inclusive and therefore more attractive to individuals who were not previously supportive of the memorial. However, a significant majority of participants in the workshops felt that in order to move forward with a memorial, which is focussed on remembering those who lost their lives in the bomb, it is important to remove the doves from the war memorial. *The majority of respondents felt they had not been consulted regarding the addition of the doves to the war memorial.* The overall findings from the workshops indicate that in order to *provide a sense of healing and to reduce a sense of further suffering on victims and families, an important first step would be to remove the doves and to restore the war memorial.*

The research found a strong feeling amongst families of a lack of ownership regarding their loved ones' memorial. *During the workshops reference was made to a previous consultation, which examined memorialising the Enniskillen bomb, however this had not resulted in any progress. Participants highlighted that overall they feel there has been a lack of consultation afforded to them.* This feeling was also expressed when discussion arose as to the location of any new memorial in or around the Clinton Centre. While opinions on the Clinton Centre were not the focus of the workshops, nonetheless, feelings of being left out of any decision making process with regards to remembering the bomb was highlighted in relation to the centre.

Respondents indicated that the Clinton Centre, its creation, present role and future objectives remains a source of considerable hurt amongst the relatives of those who died in the bomb. Particular anger was expressed by relatives who feel that those who suffered because of the attack, have not only been marginalised, but their memories and pain have been *‘used by others in the pursuit of other agendas’*. This research is not designed to examine these views in-depth; however, any future plan to erect a memorial must take into account such strong views and feelings. *Respondents indicated that this sense of not having been consulted on memorialising their loved ones has significantly impacted on the ability of affected families to move on.*

Memorial Location

These issues are especially important with regards to the location of the memorial, with views ranging from beside the Clinton Centre, to erecting a new memorial opposite to the war memorial. A number of workshop participants and interviewees felt that before a decision could be made on the location of a memorial it would be important to find out further information on issues of planning which were discussed with Mr Danny Kennedy MLA. This would also impact on the design of the memorial. Despite these issues the workshops indicated that the best location for a new memorial would be located in the position as indicated in the circle in on the photograph below:



The majority of families of the dead expressed a desire that any new memorial should be located as close to the bombsite as possible. While this was a common theme throughout the research there were a few participants who felt that the site close to the memorial would be too small to erect a memorial. *A number of other suggestions and alternative sites were put forward, especially from young people and the business community.* This included the use of the nearby river and riverbank, or the construction of an arch over a pathway beside the memorial and which leads down to a car park beside the river. Despite these suggestions *the overall consensus was to construct a memorial as close as possible to where the bomb exploded*

While discussing the location of the memorial participants referred to their fear of the memorial being vandalised, however this was qualified by recognition that any memorial can be vandalised by people with criminal intent.

One of the major issues highlighted by young people was the feeling that ‘you wouldn’t know what happened here’, as described by one respondent. Young people felt given the impact this incident had on the social, economic and cultural fabric of Enniskillen and Northern Ireland as a whole that proper recognition should be given to this site, especially in a post-conflict environment. For young people who participated in the research, *the need for a permanent reminder of the atrocity is especially important because of the fear that the suffering that endured may soon be forgotten and it was important that there was a setting and physical object and space for people to go and reflect.*

Memorial Design

In terms of the design of the memorial participants expressed a desire that the memorial *should tell the story of what happened, that those people who died were innocent* and were not, as described by one participant, 'legitimate targets'. However, a number of participants, for example, from the local business community, were keen to ensure that the memorial should not be seen as one of 'hatred and anger', but rather one of reflection by learning from the past and looking to the future. A number of participants felt it was important to establish what the memorial is for. Is it solely in relation to the immediate victims of the bomb, the impact on the town as a whole, or a memorial that reflects on the wider conflict in Northern Ireland?

One interviewee stated that a memorial that looks only to the past 'in a vengeful manner and not to the future with hope', would serve no real purpose and may actually prohibit those who suffered as a result of the attack from overcoming such experiences. This participant asked if it was healthy and helpful for the victims to have a memorial, which just focuses on the pain of the bomb, and that it might be better to incorporate the wider conflict and a vision of a better future.

Business representatives felt that any new memorial should not be aggressive or seen as a shrine and highlighted that is important to recognise that victims themselves do not want to leave a negative message, they, like everyone, want a future of hope. One important issue for the business community was that there should be no flags on any

new memorial. However, business representatives appreciated that looking to the future should not be at the expense of 'airbrushing the past'.

A diverse range of opinions was put forward regarding any wording that might accompany a memorial. The majority of victims and their families felt that it was necessary to include phrasing which makes reference to the fact that **'12 innocent victims were murdered by the IRA'**. These research participants felt that using the word 'killed' instead of 'murdered' would give the wrong impression to others of what actually took place on that day. *They felt this memorial should be an opportunity to tell what they feel is the truth about what actually took place and that the names of all those who were killed, including Ronnie Hill, who died later, should be engraved on the memorial.* Young people participating in workshops were also strenuous in the wording that must accompany any memorial. *They felt this should be a family/victims led initiative and the wording must reflect the actions that took place that day.* They asserted that *words such as 'murdered', 'innocent victims' etc 'must not be airbrushed' from any memorial on the grounds of 'political correctness' or for the purposes of obtaining funding.* The consultees expressed the view that *'the true impact of violence must be told for what it is', so that future generations will avoid taking up violence.*

While all participants in the research were sympathetic to such views, there were, however, a small number who questioned whether such wording would serve any real positive purpose, and whether this would in reality help victims to cope with

their pain and suffering. However, all participants expressed a fear that the inhumanity and brutality of the violence of the Troubles could be discarded and 'airbrushed from the annals of history'. **These consultees feel that if Northern Ireland is to move forward proper recognition should be given to the suffering of innocent victims and this memorial can provide an important step in this process.** As one person described, 'it must tell the true story, but must not be portrayed as a "peace memorial", those who died that day where innocent victims of a brutal attack and this must be reflected in any memorial'.

During the workshops participants were presented with a selection of other memorials around the world and which encompassed a variety of themes and layouts. These included traditional memorials, such as that built to remember those who were killed at Kingsmills in South Armagh. Other themes shown in the presentation included memorials, which use water as a central element, memorials using light, fire and sculptures. In interviews and questionnaires participants were also asked to give their opinion on the aesthetics and styling of any new memorial. Upon looking at different memorials throughout the world and the various designs which could be adopted to tell their respective stories, a number of participants became increasingly receptive towards a more artistic memorial which encapsulates themes of life, suffering, hope, despair, legacy and looking to the future.

In two of the workshops, one of which involved a group of young people, participants were particularly keen on erecting a memorial which included water,

light and artistic designs as part of an approach which told the story of the bomb and as such could also become an attraction where visitors to the town would visit the memorial and appreciate, both the suffering victims went through, and the impact the attack had on the town of Enniskillen and wider community. For example, one idea included the erection of a clock on the memorial that would have the time at 10.43, the time when the bomb exploded. It was on this basis that participants became increasingly positive around building a memorial, which is unique, thought provoking, and challenges assumptions. Reference was also made to the memorial at the entrance to the city of Londonderry where two figures are seen about to grasp hands. This memorial, which now acts as a symbol of Londonderry, illustrates the power of memorials and if a similar feat could be managed in Enniskillen, this would send a very powerful message of hope. It is the perceived power of such memorials which focussed business representatives' attention and their keenness to point out that any memorial should be as inclusive and forwarding looking as possible.

While, as highlighted above, consensus was based on the premise that any new memorial should be close to the bombsite, younger people also suggested a plaque where the attack took place and a further place of reflection near to the bridge, or a water feature in the nearby river with a seating area on the river bank. However, a number of participants voiced opposition to locating a memorial or garden on the bank beside the river, citing the example of the Diana memorial, which they regarded as in a state of disrepair and evidence of the problems with maintenance at this site.

Citing the example of Omagh as evidence of how a place of reflection can be built, young people feel that such a memorial must reflect the human suffering that took place. There were a number of younger people who felt that by putting up a photo of those who died, this would help families and the community identify with the memorial. However, this was tempered with a note of caution. It was agreed that anything with regards to pictures and photographs of loved ones should only be placed on any memorial site if they have the permission of the families concerned to avoid any potential for hurt or anguish to be caused.

The research found an overwhelming view that the relatives of those who died should have the final say on the styling and design of any new memorial. The view was expressed that there still exists a certain ‘head in the sand attitude’ amongst a number of social, religious, community, educational and cultural organisations with regards to meeting and dealing with issues which still exist over a quarter of a century after the Enniskillen bomb attack. **Participants indicated that if the true impact of the atrocity and associated lessons learnt from it are to be realised this must involve those individuals and organisations in positions of responsibility taking a lead in supporting the development of a memorial that remembers the suffering of victims.**

In the workshop involving a number of relatives of those who died as a result of the attack, the **predominant view was around erecting a traditional type memorial**, such as that in the village of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, which was erected in memory of those who died following the attack at Kingsmills. While in favour of a

traditional memorial, participants were receptive to including other elements, such as light, but expressed concern as to the upkeep of any memorial, the expense and potential for damage. Furthermore, when making reference to potential memorial designs, including those, which use, for example, light, this needs to be judged against any environmental impact.

A major theme arising from this workshop was that, while they were in favour of a traditional type of memorial located close to the site, **they would also like to see the Clinton Centre being used as the base for a 'living memorial' where the experiences, stories and suffering of victims would be relayed to a wider audience through an interpretive centre experience.** This would provide the opportunity for visitors to both learn of the suffering which occurred on that day and since and also how those affected both recall the past and look to the future. Particular emphasis on this idea was placed on involving younger people in its design and outlook so those who were not old enough to experience the effects of violence, can learn of its brutality and steer future generations from resorting to acts of violence. A number of young people who participated in workshops commented that within the younger generation there are many who lack the full knowledge of what actually took place in sites such as Enniskillen. **They felt that if Northern Ireland as a society is to move onto a time of peace and prosperity then the horrors of conflict must be explained to younger people, so they can see its futility and the suffering violence causes.**

The importance placed on educating future generations was a recurring theme throughout this research and while all were in agreement that the victims and families should have the final say on any memorial design, young people should also play a central role in this process, particular in the creation and operation of a living memorial and interpretive story telling experience.

Young people participating in this study were also supportive of the development of an interpretive centre to accompany any new memorial. **They felt this centre would complement the memorial**, providing an area and potential tourist attraction, where visitors could come and learn about the impact of the bomb and the wider conflict in Fermanagh and Northern Ireland. Young people also felt such a centre would act as a catalyst to highlight the enormous strides Northern Ireland and its people have made in the quest for peace, and the barriers that have been overcome in this objective. The centre could explain these facts and be a motivating sign for other areas involved in conflict, that peace can be obtained through adversity. Young participants also suggested having a mural painted on the wall of the Clinton Centre which remembers the bomb attack or a light show which is transferred onto the wall at the Clinton Centre.

The concluding parts of the sessions revolved around whether participants would be agreeable to accept funding for the erection of a memorial. **Participants were agreeable to this but did not want funding to restrict the design and wording of the memorial.** Concluding thoughts on the memorial included agreement that the

memorial should be **low maintenance, self-sustaining, with low upkeep costs but maximum impact**. On this basis participants were agreeable to exploring the options regarding alternative energy sources such as solar power, as a way of powering and maintaining any memorial, such as that which uses water and light.

Conclusion and Key Points

The research unearthed a complex range of emotions and views which demonstrates the lasting impact the Poppy Day bomb attack has had on victims, families and the wider community. There is clear evidence of the importance attached to erecting a memorial that illustrates the devastating impact of the violence of the past and the hopes and challenges for the future.

From the research a number of key points were raised.

- We noted a very high level of disenchantment and loss of faith in the wider political and policy making process, which was reflected in the lack of confidence victims have in a memorial being erected in their lifetime.
- The sense of alienation felt by victims, their families, friends and associated bodies was one of the major overarching themes throughout this research and is an issue which must be addressed if, both the legacy of the conflict is to be dealt with, and wider collective ideals of a shared future are to be realised.

- These feelings amongst relatives have been magnified by the perceived failure of some religious, cultural, social and political organisations in the Enniskillen area and further afield to effectively listen to and address the many issues which continue to affect the daily lives of victims and their families. 'Turning a blind eye', as described by one participant in the research, to the needs and existing suffering of victims will not help to bring an end to division and heartache, but will instead perpetuate and potentially increase their feeling of marginalization, pain and detachment from wider society. The willingness of such organisations and bodies to actively support the erection of a new memorial would play a major role in addressing such concerns.
- There needs to be greater openness with victims and clarity with regards to issues which affect victims. No policy, consultation or practice undertaken by any organisation or body should be carried out in a manner which inflicts more pain on victims of Troubles related violence in Northern Ireland. It is therefore important that future actions, in relation to the erection of a memorial in Enniskillen, **places the needs and feelings of victims and their families at the forefront.**
- Victims felt that the families of those who were killed in the bomb should have the final say on any memorial which is erected. While participants throughout this research agreed this.. The desire to involve different groups in the process was particularly emphasised by business community representatives who are

keen to see the wider community and town of Enniskillen be part of this process.

- There were a number of different views with regards to the design and location of the memorial, with victims and their families alternating between traditional and more artistic designs. *The majority of participants were in favour of a traditional memorial, in a similar vein to the memorial to the Kingsmills massacre which is located in the village of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh*, they were also receptive to artistic elements which helped to tell the story of what took place that day. A number of other participants in the workshops, interviewees and questionnaire respondents, were in favour of a more artistic type of memorial that incorporated a sculptured design. Particular emphasis was placed on the use of light, for example 12 lights shining into the sky in remembrance of those 12 individuals who were killed. Many of the participants felt that a more artistic approach would remove the styling of the memorial from a 'traditional war memorial' and this was important for a number of participants' view that those who died did not die in a war. Young people were especially keen on an artistic format to the memorial and a number were keen to use the nearby river and water in some way. However, a number of other participants felt that this would be 'too far out of the way' and would not be easily maintained. *The overall majority of participants favoured a more traditional approach to memorialisation, due to factors such as costings*

- The maintenance of any memorial was a major source of concern for participants and they are keen to see a memorial in place which is both *aesthetically pleasing, yet easily managed*. Participants were agreeable to use of alternative energy sources, if required, such as solar power, to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- The *location of a memorial was a central theme* in discussions. While alternative suggestions were made, such as using the nearby river for a water fountain, overall consensus was *agreed on locating a memorial area as close to the original bombsite as possible*.
- One of the major issues to arise in the research surrounded the development, use and future of the Clinton Centre. There is evidence of *a significant level of detachment from the building and its purpose among relatives of the victims*. Many victims commented that they felt their pain and suffering was used for the purposes of creating this centre, but they have been marginalised from it. **A more positive working relationship with all parties would perhaps help to alleviate feelings of marginalisation and alienation.**
- The use of the Clinton Centre as a base for a living memorial and interpretative centre where victims' stories and experiences could be told in video and interactive displays was *an attractive proposition for many participants*. This would provide an *educational basis for any memorial project* and could take

place in conjunction with a new memorial being erected. It would also allow victims and families to recall the past, while looking to the future and educating future generations of the futility of violence. It would also enable younger people to participate further in any memorializing project and allow for greater artistic elements to be incorporated to such a project, for example, through murals, videos, artworks, theatrical productions, story-telling projects, light shows and so forth.

- The research has identified a range of ideas and provides a good foundation for the development of a memorializing project which could be attractive to many stakeholders. For this to be achieved will require different groups and participants gathering and agreeing a common theme and design for a new memorial and associated projects as well as effective and long term support from relevant organisations and bodies to make this become a reality

Specific Recommendations for Moving Forward

Following this study we suggest a number of key recommendations for moving this process forward.

- A series of meetings should be held with interested stakeholders, such as the Department of the Environment, Fermanagh District Council, in order to explore the viability of the suggestions identified in this study.
- A working group comprised of family representatives and project leads should be established to develop an awareness raising and fundraising strategy and an action plan, with project deadlines and final designs to be agreed by project leads
- Costings should be obtained for the erection of recommendations identified within this process
- Suitable manufacturers should be identified in line with the recommendations within this process

Appendix I

Dates if interviews/workshops

11/1/13: Interview with Minister Danny Kennedy MLA

11/3/13: Interview with Director of Services, the Ely Centre

13/3/13: Interview with Board of Directors of Ely Centre

10/6/13: Interview with Mr Roy Crawford, President of Enniskillen Rotary Club

10/12/13: Workshop held in Ely Centre (youth, general membership)

12/12/13: Workshop with Families of Victims of Enniskillen Bomb held in Ely Centre

25/3/13: Workshop held with South East Fermanagh Foundation

18/6/13: Workshop held with young people from the Enniskillen and surrounding areas

Appendix II

Workshop and Interview Questions used:

Q 1. What is your opinion on the current memorial to victims of the Enniskillen bomb, consisting of twelve doves, located on the War memorial in the town centre?

Q 2. Would you like to see a new permanent memorial erected in memory of those who died in the poppy day bomb?

Q 3. What would you want a new permanent memorial to achieve?

Q 4. What would you like the memorial to represent?

Q 5. What would be your favoured location of the erection of a new memorial?

Q 6. What type of design would be most appropriate for a new memorial?

Examples suggested:

Water Fountain



Water Feature



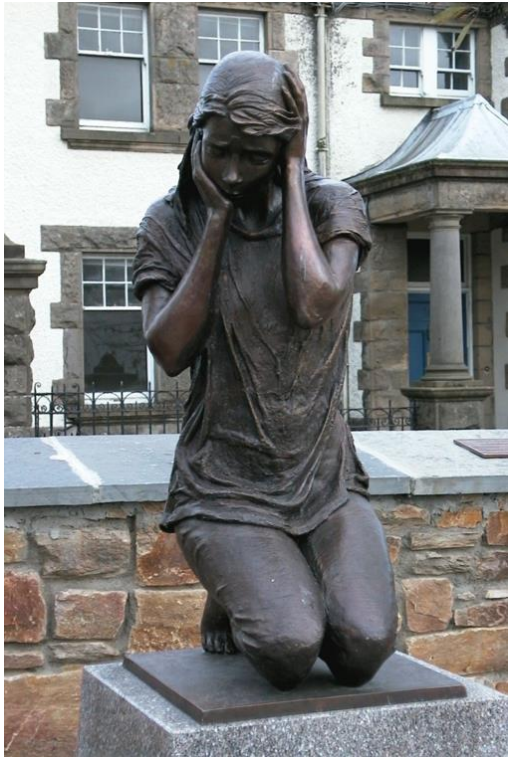
Light memorial



Memorial Stone



Memorial Statue



Memorial with Fire



Memorial Plaque



Traditional Memorial



Traditional Memorial with no enclosure



Q 7. Have you any specific ideas/suggestions for an appropriate design?

Q.8 Would you like the names of those who died to be inscribed on a new memorial?

Q.9 How should a new memorial be funded?

Q.10 How should a new memorial be properly maintained?

Appendix III: Questionnaire



Questionnaire

Feasibility Study for a Permanent Memorial in Memory of the Victims of the Enniskillen Poppy Day Bomb

Carried out by Macaulay Associates Network for the Ely Centre

The Ely Centre has commissioned independent researchers, Macaulay Associates Network to undertake a feasibility study in relation to a proposed new memorial to be erected in Enniskillen in remembrance of those who were killed as a result of the bomb attack in Enniskillen on Remembrance Sunday 1987. This questionnaire is part of that study and has been designed to collect views and opinions with regards to a memorial. Your feedback is much valued on this very important issue.

Q1. What is your opinion on the current memorial to victims of the Enniskillen bomb, consisting of twelve doves, located on the War memorial in the town centre?

Q 2. Would you like to see a new permanent memorial erected in memory of those who died in the poppy day bomb (please circle your answer)?

Yes No

Q 3. If a new memorial were to be erected what would you like it to achieve?

Q 4. What would you like the memorial to represent?

Q 5. What would be your favoured location for the erection of a new memorial if it were to be constructed? (Please circle one)

Beside the current War Memorial

Beside the Clinton Centre

Opposite the Clinton Centre, near to the bridge

Another Location (Please specify) _____

Q 6. What would be your favoured design for a new memorial? (More than one option can be circled)

Traditional

Abstract

Sculpture

Garden

Statue

Plaque

Digital (online)

Fountain

Other (Please specify) _____

Q 7. Have you any specific ideas/suggestions for an appropriate design?

Q.8 Would you like the names of those who died to be inscribed on a new memorial? (Please circle your answer)

Yes

No

Q. 9 Are there any further suggestions or points of view you wish to express in relation to a proposed new memorial?

Thank you

Appendix 4

Letters to Schools

I am writing on behalf of the Ely Centre, a victim's organisation based in Enniskillen, who provide therapy and support to the victims of the Enniskillen bomb and the Troubles in general. We have recently begun researching the feasibility of erecting a memorial to the victims of the Poppy Day atrocity.

We are keen to create a memorial which is aesthetically pleasing and one which encapsulates the themes of remembrance, therapy and confidence for the future. We have undertaken a preliminary consultation with the families in relation to the design of the memorial and have a range of ideas at this stage, from traditional memorials to more contemporary designs which incorporate light and water. We are now ready to take this process to the next stage.

The families want to ensure that this is a memorial which not only remembers the past, but looks forward with confidence to the future, a peaceful future for all the people of Northern Ireland. In order to achieve this, the victims and families of the Enniskillen bomb feel that it is vital that the voices and opinions of the next generation are heard. We would therefore like to invite two representatives from your school to come along to a workshop with pupils from other local schools in order to obtain ideas and opinions from the young people of Enniskillen and surrounding areas. We want to ensure that this memorial provides a fitting remembrance to the victims of that fateful day and one which showcases the community's collective opposition to acts of terrorism.

We can be contacted by any of the methods listed below to arrange a mutually convenient date and time to meet. On behalf of the Ely Centre I thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you.

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