

## **County Council – 16 July 2021**

### **Item 11(b) - Notice of Motion by Cllr Boram**

#### **Emergency Services - Briefing Note**

The County Council is the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority. It works closely with the other emergency services in West Sussex, including Sussex Police and the South East Coast Ambulance Service.

Emergency Services Day (also known as 999 Day) is a day marked nationally across the UK. It is supported by HM The Queen, the Prime Minister and the First Ministers of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is promoted as a chance to recognise the vital work of men and women of the Fire and Rescue Service, NHS and other emergency services.

Volunteers are an essential part of the emergency services family and they play a core part in keeping Britain safe. 999 volunteer roles include; retained firefighters, special constables, NHS community responders, St John Ambulance, RNLI, Search and Rescue and coastguard volunteers. They are all included in activities marking Emergency Services Day. A flag is used to promote the day.

The Emergency Services Day is promoted as a national campaign to undertake the following actions:

- Promotes 999 workers who serve/have served
- Promotes career and volunteer opportunities across the emergency services
- Promotes using the emergency services responsibly
- Educates the public on essential life-saving skills
- Promotes emergency services charities and the work they do
- Promotes campaigns being run by frontline emergency services.

National fundraising is underway to build an Emergency Services Cenotaph, to be based in London. The proposed design includes six figures stood back-to-back wearing the uniform they would wear when responding to a 999 call. They are a police officer, firefighter, paramedic, a maritime officer, a search and rescue worker, a dog to represent service animals and a recent addition of an NHS nurse in scrubs which was added to the design at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sculptor Philip Jackson CVO, a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex, has been commissioned to design and create the monument.

The charity campaigning to raise funds for the cenotaph aims for it to be a single national cenotaph to act as the national symbol of remembrance, sacrifice and gratitude to all emergency services. Just as the cenotaph on Whitehall is the one national monument to the military, it is the charity's ambition to create the first national cenotaph dedicated to all emergency services and NHS personnel.

**Tony Kershaw**

Director of Law and Assurance