

Ancre Somme Association
Lurgan & Brownlow Royal British Legion
Union Street
Lurgan

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Patrons: Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Maher. Major Gary Tait MBE.



20 MAR 2018

RIBBON OF POPPIES CAMPAIGN 2018

Dear Chief Executive,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter regarding the 2018 Ribbon of Poppies Campaign.

I am sure that you are aware that around the UK almost six million men were mobilised during the Great War and of those almost 700,000 were killed and never returned home to their loved ones.

The aim of the Ribbon of Poppies Campaign is to promote the growing of Flanders Poppies, in designated areas around the United Kingdom, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War in memory of those brave men who fell during World War One.

As an Association our branches across the UK focus on education, remembrance and welfare and it's our belief that this campaign can be used to give our young people a better understanding of their history while also helping to teach them the importance of remembrance.

Our Association has produced a packet of Remembrance Poppy Seeds and these are available now from our website www.ancresommeassociation.co.uk priced at only £1 per packet.

Profits from the sale of these poppy seeds will be donated to the William McFadzean VC Commemoration Society. The Society is currently raising funds and has commissioned a sculptor to produce a statue of William McFadzean VC that will be erected in Lurgan, his place of birth. For more information on the society please visit www.williammcfadzeanvc.org.uk

Since the launch of this year's Ribbon of Poppies Campaign hundreds of Scout, Cub, Guide and Brownie groups across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have pledged support, as well as a number of schools and other councils and community organisations. I am writing to you today in the hope that your council will consider supporting this campaign. I would request that this letter be presented to your Council members for discussion.

Joining the campaign is very easy **Step One** – Pledge your support **Step Two** – Purchase your Poppy Seeds and finally **Step Three** – Sow the Seeds. For more information visit www.ancresommeassociation.co.uk

Once again thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope that you will look favourably on our request for support with this worthy cause.

If you have any queries or questions now, or in the future, don't hesitate to contact us on 07920746760

Yours faithfully,

Ant Maher

Lt Col Ant Maher
Patron
Ancre Somme Association





**From the Permanent Secretary
Peter May**

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
By email:
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Your reference:
Our reference: PSDFI 87/18
18 April 2018

Dear Anthony

A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS

Following our meeting on 22 March, I undertook to review the Department's position on advancing the Cookstown Bypass scheme.

Firstly, I feel it is useful to summarise the position to date. The preferred route for this scheme was approved in March 2010, however progression through the statutory procedures was put on hold due to unavailability of funding.

In October 2016 the Executive announced a stimulus package which included £600k of additional funding for 2016/17 to allow further preparatory development on a number of major road improvement schemes, including A29 Cookstown Bypass, A2 Buncrana Road and A4 Enniskillen Bypass.

The scheme consultant for Cookstown Bypass was still under contract with the Department and a review of the scheme was carried out in order to establish how it could be progressed. A draft report was produced outlining the scope of the works, including a programme for progressing the next phase of the project.

Given the passage of time since the announcement of the preferred route, the next steps entail the undertaking of new surveys and a design review before commencing progression through the statutory procedures. This refresh work was estimated to cost in the region of £500k and would have required funding beyond the 2016/17 financial year. The Department, having no certainty regarding funding into 2017/18 financial year to continue meaningful development, curtailed further development work.

However, in view of the previous Minister's intentions and taking cognisance of those in conjunction with the recently obtained financial allocations for 2018/19, the

Department is now in a position to resume development work on Cookstown Bypass with a view to producing draft statutory orders and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The Director of Engineering will now proceed to commission this work.

I hope you find this helpful. If you have any further queries relating to the foregoing please contact Pat Doherty, Director of Engineering (Tel: 028 9054 0471, email: pat.doherty@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Peter May

PETER MAY