

**Nigel Bailey**

Remote CTC 4/8/20.  
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**From:** Stewart Blackburn <stewartb658@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** 14 July 2020 13:22  
**To:** Nigel Bailey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Remembrance 2020 and VJ Day  
**Attachments:** Remembrance Rules.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stewart Blackburn <stewartb658@outlook.com>  
**Subject:** Remembrance 2020 and VJ Day  
**Date:** 14 July 2020 at 13:15:48 BST  
**To:** Hilary Elias <hilary.elias@costesseytc.org>  
**Cc:** Vivienne Bell <vivbell@aol.co.uk>, Terry Laidlaw <terry.laidlaw@btinternet.com>, Peter Smith <mary824@hotmail.co.uk>

Dear Hilary,

It is the time of year when I would normally apply for the road closure to enable the Remembrance Parade and service to go ahead smoothly. Unfortunately, we received the attached communication within a regular newsletter from the RBL HQ. As you will see, the RBL is stepping back from the responsibility of organising the event trying to ensure the local authorities take on greater responsibility as it is a civic event. I am happy to apply for a road closure order as usual but in doing so will need to do this on behalf of the Costessey TC. It may be that the event this year cannot go ahead anyway because of Covid restrictions - currently we are not allowed to meet. However, I am hopeful that by November there may be a change. Can you please advise whether the Council want me to make the application on their behalf? There is not normally a cost for the application for the Remembrance event.

My greatest concern is the use of marshals for the parade. Normally, I use legion members, but again this is now not possible. If I can get the usual people to volunteer to do the task they would have to be doing so as representatives of the TC. Again, I need to know that the Council are content for this action. Sadly, this all come down to liability and risk. It appears that the RBL have become completely risk averse. Whilst we hold public liability insurance, it is clear that the cover will not include those on parade tripping on route to the church nor spectators doing the same. Very sad, but reflecting today's environment. I am determined that we will still parade, and I am happy to do the organising, but I can only do this on behalf of the Costessey Town Council.

I also hope to organise something a little different for VJ Day. I am happy to do the Flag Lowering and raising ceremony that we did for VE Day, but as this actually represents the end of the Second World War I hope to get the people of Costessey and Drayton to put photographs of those who served during the War in their windows in remembrance of their contribution. They could also step out of their homes at 11.00 am on the 15th August to remember those individuals with a 2 minutes silence. I am unsure of the best way to get this advertised across Costessey, but wonder whether you may have some thoughts on this?

Thank you for your continued support,

Best wishes,

## Remembrance Parades (post lockdown)

**IMPORTANT - THIS INFORMATION PERTAINS ONLY TO WHEN LOCKDOWN HAS BEEN LIFTED AND THE LEGION CHANGES ITS CURRENT POSITION ON BRANCH AND REMEMBRANCE ACTIVITY.**

### **NO REMEMBRANCE PARADES ARE CURRENTLY TO BE UNDERTAKEN**

I have been asked by a few branches to provide clarity on the Legion's position in regard to the organisation of Remembrance Parades in preparation for Remembrancetide.

We know that branches and members are proud to play an active part in Remembrance services and parades every year and are only too happy to support local authorities in their planning for such important community events. Whilst the Legion often plays an active support role, Remembrance events are a civic matter and most local authorities show a great deal of support for Remembrance. However, every year a number of Legion branches report they are being asked to organise and/or bear the costs of road closures and policing.

This brings with it a range of responsibilities and liabilities which could result in significant charitable funds being diverted away from our vital welfare work. As a result, whilst Legion branches, or counties or districts, may support councils in their planning of local Remembrance services and parade routes, they **may not** assume responsibility for the design and delivery of parade routes, especially the organisation and deployment of Temporary Traffic Management Orders (TTMOs) or the contracting of traffic management services, where the liabilities can run into millions of pounds.

Where a branch, or county or district, has to be the Event organiser (because the Civic Authorities refuse) they may take this role **but there can be no street Parade, no road closure and, therefore, no need for a Temporary Traffic Management Operation (TTMO)** unless this aspect of the event is owned by a Civic Authority. Whilst the branch can be involved in determining a Parade route, it should not itself contract with a third party and may not take responsibility for the design, planning and deployment of a TTMO. On the day of the Parade, the RBL and its volunteers must not engage in the deployment, management or removal of any TTMO. This includes, for example, placing barriers, directing traffic or driving vehicles that are involved in the TTMO.

Our Public Liability Insurance covers risks within the Legion's control (e.g. if a Standard is dropped and injures an attendee, but not, say, if someone trips up over a raised paving stone – which would be the local authority's responsibility).

The Legion is clear that while our branches are very willing to assist in the organisation of local Remembrance parades and services, for instance through the provision of Standard Bearers or the identification of local veterans, responsibility for both their funding and delivery rests with civic authorities. In short, Remembrance parades and services are important community events supported by the Legion, not Legion events supported by the community.

I do hope this provides the clarity that you need, but in the event of any further queries, please contact your MSO in the first instance.

Regards,

Sandra  
**Sandra Fruish MBA MSc**  
**Assistant Director Membership**

