

## **Email regarding the request for memorial for Caribbean Servicemen.**

Morning David

Scarborough Council has been approached by a lady called Gifty Burrows, from African Stories, to ask if a plaque commemorating the contributions of Caribbean volunteer servicemen who were stationed in Filey in 1943 could be placed in memorial gardens Filey. Further information below.

Martin Pedley the Council's Asset manager has looked into this and obtained costs and looked at locations just outside the gardens to the right in line with the British legion plaque. We have identified the costs which are in the region of £4.5 - £5k to include a commemorative stone and plaque and an interpretation board. SBC have no objections to this but would like to also seek FTC's views and approval.

NYCC have pledged £1k towards the costs and SBC will also be supporting with a contribution towards this. I would be grateful if you could advise a) if Filey Town Council are supportive and b) if Filey Town Council would also look to make a contribution towards the costs.

I would therefore be grateful if you could let me know as a matter of urgency if FTC are happy to support and also what level of contribution, if any, you would be happy to make.

***In July 2020, the family Gilmour Westcarr contacted the African Stories website to ask if there was a plaque commemorating the contributions of Caribbean volunteer servicemen in Filey after reading their stories in the project archives. This brought into sharp focus this omission and stimulated an approach to North Yorkshire Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Filey Town Council. The aim is to site a memorial and interpretation board in the Murray Street memorial gardens in Filey.***

***Starting in September 1943, applications were invited for ground crew trades and 5,500 men were selected. They came from most of the islands in the Caribbean as well as British Honduras (now Belize) and British Guiana (now Guyana) on the mainland, and from many ethnic backgrounds and ancestral mixes – including African, European, Chinese, Indian, and others. Approximately 4,000 of these young volunteer recruits spent time training at RAF Hunmanby Moor, Filey and from there were posted out to contribute to the general war effort. This is a little-known fact that seems to not be on the radar of many local people.***

***On Sunday 11 June 1994, around 40 of the men who trained at Filey returned to the East Yorkshire town for a reunion. They were received by the mayor of the town at that time, Mike Cockerill.***

***There is no central archive, and it is the case that many people nationally are unaware of the unique position of Filey in this history. The project has highlighted this history and in recent months has made further additions encouraging relatives to celebrate the story of the recruits in memorial. As***

***many of the men have not been identified, research continues to list as many of the recruits as possible in a roll of honour.***

***It is hoped that by erecting a memorial in the near future, it will allow some of the remaining servicemen to be aware of this tribute to them even if they are unable to attend.***

I look forward to hearing from you asap so that I can advise Gift Burrows of the outcome.

Kind regards  
Janet