



**FELIXSTOWE WAR MEMORIAL  
REPORT ON CONDITION**

for

**Felixstowe Town Council  
Town Hall  
Felixstowe  
Suffolk  
IP11 2AG**

**WHITWORTH**

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PEO/cm/5808/1**





specifications need to be obtained before firm budgets can be provided and these will differ from the guessed costs.

**Key:**

- A - Denotes urgent, requiring immediate attention.
- B - Denotes work which requires attention within 12 months.
- C - Denotes work which requires attention in the next 18 – 24 months.
- D - Denotes work which requires attention within 5 years.
- E - Denotes work which requires attention after 5 years.

- 3.1 The condition reading from the top downwards is as follows:
- 3.2 **Dove figure:** this is in sound order. It is held to the top of the monument with screws which appear to be sound. The figure is securely held. It is reported that there was an olive branch in the dove's beak.
- 3.3 **The urn:** this is much stained by verdigris from a former bronze or copper dove but the stonework is in reasonable order. There is apparent cracking in places although this appears to be a bed in the stone and does not pose any threat at this stage. It is not clear why there should be verdigris present when the old figure was of lead.
- 3.4 **The capital:** the top surfaces are satisfactory. The stonework in general is structurally sound. There has been much erosion of detail particularly on the seaward faces. The landward face is less eroded and detail remains crisp. The curled leaves of the stonework and the detail of the scrolls at the corners is eroding to a greater or lesser extent but all elements remain securely held. These will continue to erode over time and given the exposure and the height, it may be best to accept that in say, 50 years' time, a complete new stone capital will be needed. By that time leaves will have been lost completely in various positions. In the shorter term however, it would help the survival of the stonework to remove the black soot deposits under the stonework in places. B
- 3.5 The joint between the capital and the column shaft is open in places and in need of pointing. The existing mortars should be sampled and analysed since these seem to have been quite successful in surviving. Samples could be taken at low level to inform the eventual mortar mix. B

- 3.6 **The column shaft:** the surfaces have eroded particularly on the seaward sides. Given that the column has been in position for 98 years the degree of erosion is remarkably small. There is certainly no structural threat arising from this erosion. Being a natural material comprising the remains of sea creatures laid down millions of years ago, the stone shows shells where it has eroded and in one position a pebble or larger fossil has fallen out leaving a hole. This is self-draining and is not in itself problematic but it is close to the edge of one of the flutes of the column; point it so that the flute's erosion is slowed. The mortar will be sacrificial and will in the course of time erode faster than the stonework. B
- As with the capital, the options to stay the erosion are very limited and the potential to set up catastrophic lines of failure exists if it were attempted to impregnate the stone with any consolidant. The flutes will become indistinct in 50 to 100 years' time on the seaward sides and it may be best to assume that the stone will be renewed at that stage.
- 3.7 **Column base:** this again is much eroded on the seaward side, particularly the south west side. The worst erosion is on the south west corner. This appears to coincide with a slightly softer bed in the stone. The stone is all structurally stable (indeed, there is a light growth of lichens on the horizontal surfaces suggesting that there is very little erosion ongoing here). No work is suggested but clean out and point up the joints between the base and the shaft on the south east and south west sides. B
- 3.8 **Plinth including the cornice and base mouldings:** the stonework of the cornice and the base is generally in good order: there is minor pitting of the top of the cornice but lichens growing here showing there is no routine erosion. There is a bed showing in the stone on the west face but this is not a defect. Lichens again grow on the base stonework showing that there is no ongoing erosion.
- 3.9 The stonework of the plinth between the cornice and the moulding is largely covered by the memorial tablets but has eroded particularly on the south east and south west corners. There are past mortar repairs at the top of the south east corner and at the top and the middle of the south west corner. These repairs could be cut out and remade in a more sympathetic mortar when other repairs are carried out. B
- 3.10 **Stepped base:** in general this is satisfactory. There is no significant erosion and the steps have a light covering of lichen. It is not known whether the lichen poses a slip hazard in wet weather (dry weather at inspection meant this could not be checked). The bedding mortar is generally in reasonable order: there is hair line cracking in places in the bedding mortar but not such as to justify cutting out and repointing yet. Stonework is cracked on the lowest step on the south east corner and the west side centre step north of the memorial tablet. While necessary skills are on site drill and fix these with stainless steel dowels. B

- 3.11 There has been minor loss of surface on the west side lowest step south of the memorial tablet but this is very small and appears to relate to a bed in the stone. There is lichen on the surface showing it is not an ongoing problem. The perpendicular joint in the stonework here is quite open and should be pointed. B
- 3.12 **Stonework supporting the Second World War Memorial tablets:** this is in sound order in general except for the south tablet upper west section and the east tablet upper south section. In both cases the stone is eroding but it does not yet threaten stability of the memorial or unduly affect the setting of the tablet. There is lichen on the surfaces in both cases which suggests that the erosion is very slow. It may be necessary to piece in some new stonework here in 5 to 10 years' time. This can be done easily from ground level using a suitable stonemason. E
- 3.13 **York stone border:** the York Stone border at lawn level around the base is satisfactory. Rake out and point up the joint between the border and the memorial on the south and west sides and at the south east corner to prevent plant growths recurring B
- 4.0 **MEMORIAL TABLETS**
- 4.1 **Second World War tablets:** these are all in satisfactory condition. It is believed that the lettering was repainted approximately 10 years ago. At this stage assume that repainting may be needed in 5 to 10 years' time? E
- 4.2 **First World War Memorial tablets:** these are of white marble and appear to be held to the plinth with iron dowels or cramps. There are obvious defects with cracking on the north tablet and staining on the site of the cramps; staining on the east tablet; loss of the marble surface in one position on the south and staining in another and staining on the west tablet. The west tablet also has a bed in the marble on the south edge; this forms a weakness although it is held captive.
- 4.3 The tablets appear to be soundly held at present but as can be seen on the south and also on the north the iron fixings are gradually rusting, expanding and damaging the tablets and also causing unsightly iron staining. The tablets should be supported by a stone conservator, cleaned and refixed with stainless steel or bronze dowels. This will require drilling out of the fixings and a detailed method statement will need to be evolved with a conservator to ensure the best job possible. B
- 4.4 **Surroundings:** the memorial is set in a narrow strip of grass lawn with flower beds around that and a concrete paving slab path connecting the lawn to the main pavement on the north side. No comment is made on the condition of the landscaping nor of the small retaining wall towards the promenade and the sloping paths on the east and west sides, except to say that the setting is reasonable and that with the York stone border at the base of the memorial, maintenance of lawns etc does not pose a threat to the memorial.

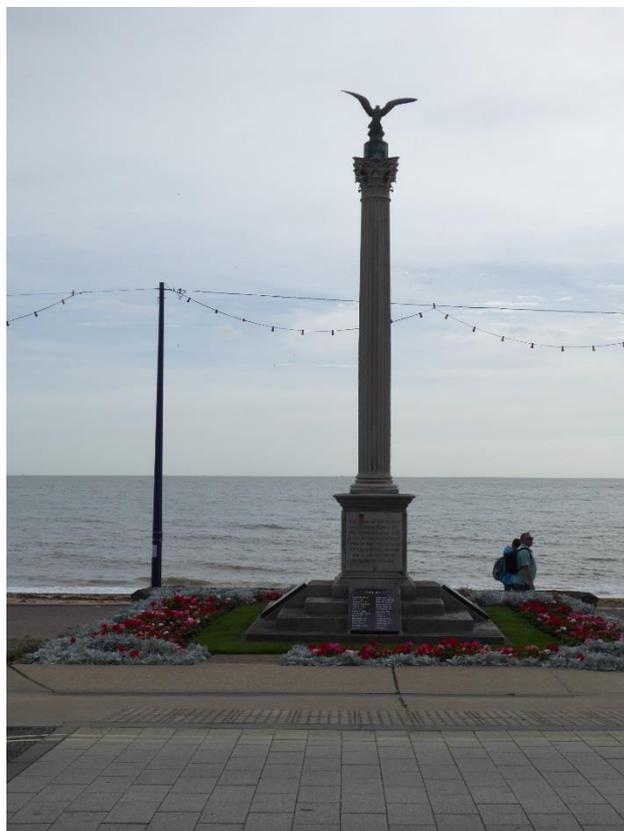
5.0 **PRIORITIES AND BUDGETS**

- 5.1 While individual items listed as B priority above might have a slightly lower urgency, the repeat cost of a conservator attending twice within one five year period means that it is most practical to group all these defects into one package.
- 5.2 A budget for the B priority work, assuming high level access by tubular scaffolding, might be £8,500 including £1,000 contingency (approx. £12,000 inclusive of fees, VAT and contingency).
- 5.3 Work needed more than five years hence is not given a budget since inflation and dilapidation will make any budget invalid before the work falls due.

**FELIXSTOWE WAR MEMORIAL  
PHOTOGRAPHS**



**1. Setting, viewed from North West**



**2. North elevation**



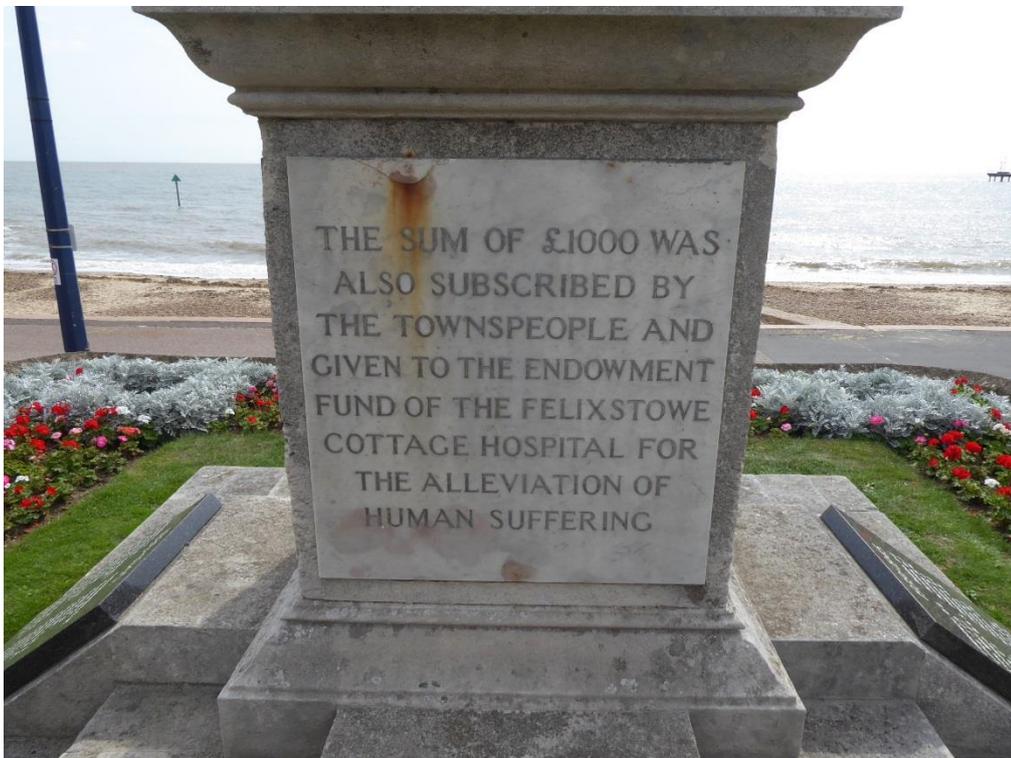
**3. East elevation**



**4. South elevation**



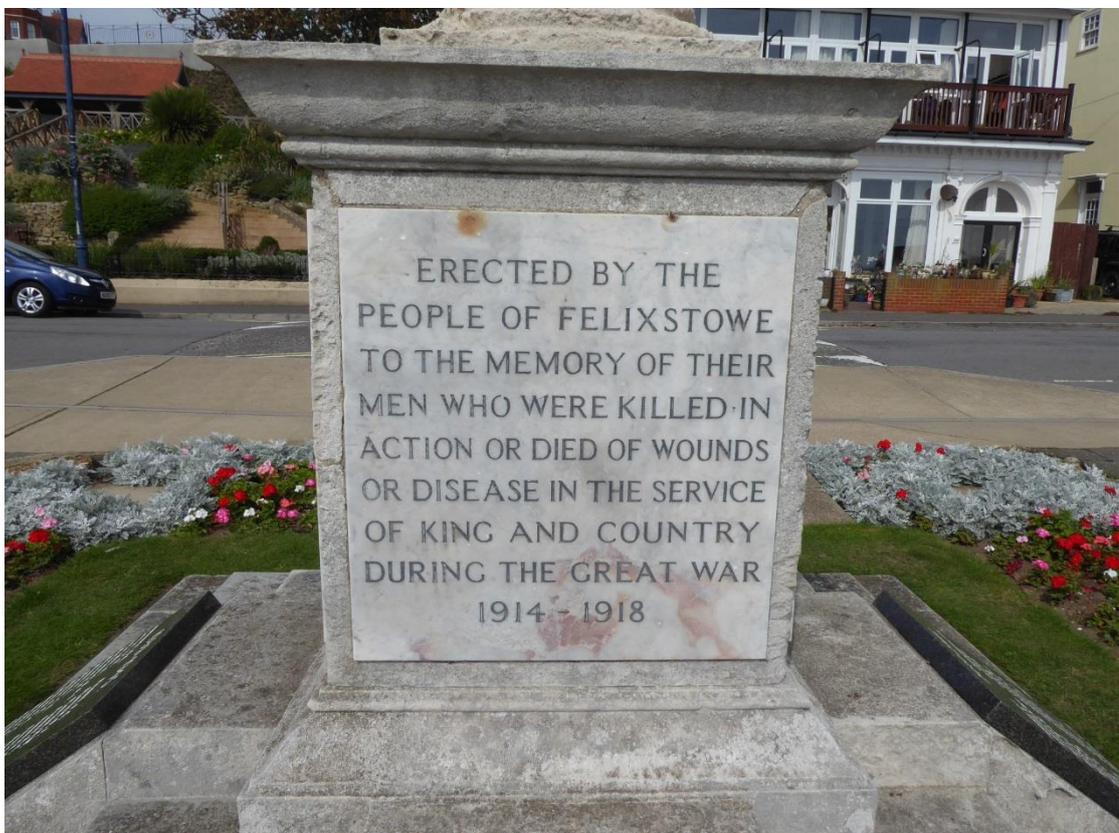
**5. West elevation**



**6. WWI North tablet**



7. WWI East tablet



8. WWI South tablet



9. WWI West tablet



10. WWII North tablet



11. WWII East tablet



12. WWII South tablet



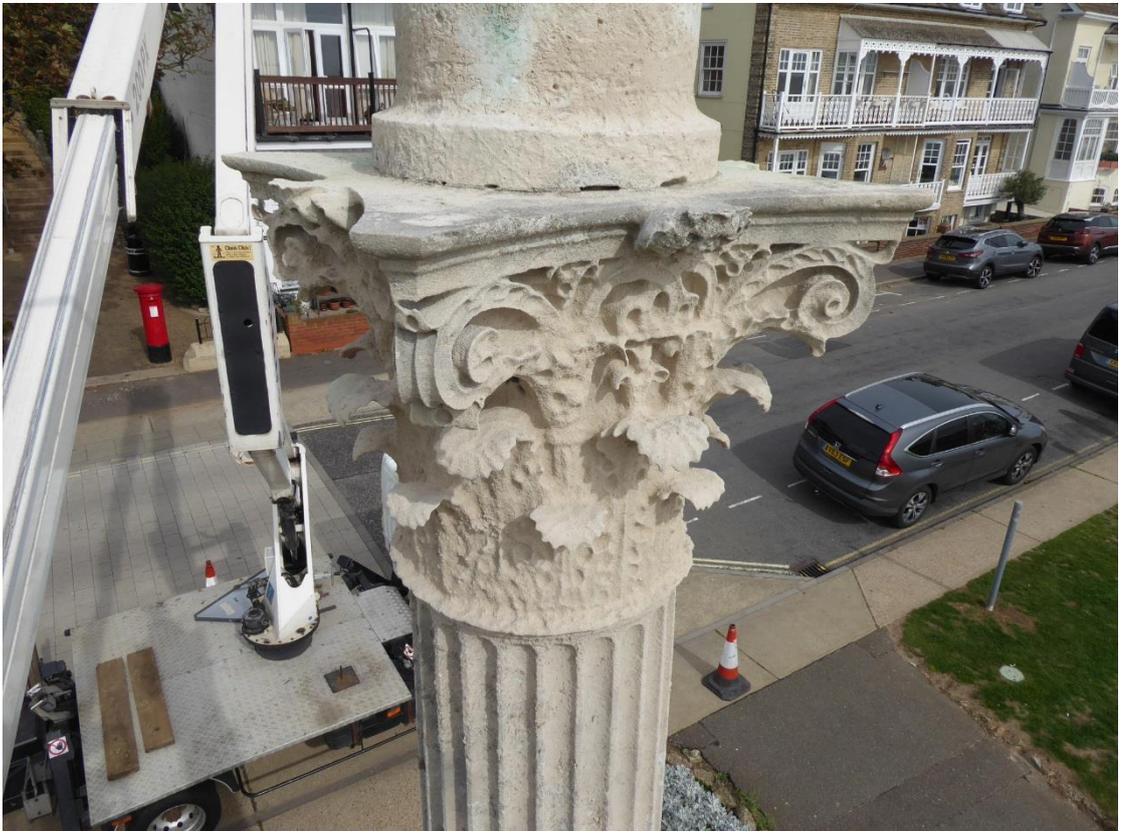
**13. WWII West tablet**



**14. Dove and urn from east**



**15. Dove and urn from west**



**16. Capital from south west**



**17. Capital detail, North**



**18. Capital detail: south**



19. Shaft: hole



20. Column base from south west



**21. Base, south east crack**



**22. Base, west crack**



**23. Base, open joint**



**24. WWI South tablet detail**



25. WWI West tablet detail.

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