

BERMONDSEY



The memorial being unveiled in 1921 and Simon Hughes MP (below)

War memorial will be ready for Armistice

Fears it would stay in storage

By Oliver Pugh

oliver@southwarknews.co.uk

BUILDERS HAVE at the last minute agreed to reinstate a Bermondsey war memorial in time for a service on Remembrance Sunday.

Ongoing construction at the site in Old Jamaica Road prompted fears among residents that the landmark monument would remain hidden away in storage for another year – breaking promises made by the developer, Notting Hill Housing.

But following enquiries by Simon Hughes MP and the *News*, Notting Hill issued a statement to insist that its promise would be kept.

Unveiled in 1921 by General Sir Charles Monro, the memorial commemorates the members of the 22nd Battalion, the London Regiment (The Queen's) who died in World War I.

Later a plaque was added which commemorates the members of the 6th (Bermondsey) battalion of the Queen's Royal Regiment who died in War World II.

Simon Hughes, MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, said: "The site of the war memorial in Old Jamaica Road seemed completely boarded up and not ready last Sunday. It's great news that the memorial will be visible and suitable for a service on Remembrance Sunday this year.

"The developers have clearly responded to the pressure and honoured their promise that there would only be one year when the site would be behind scaffolding and boards.

"Queen's Regiment and the Royal Marines have

always been honoured and done Bermondsey the honour of joining us to commemorate our war dead at this much loved war memorial.

"It is great news that there will after all be able to be a commemoration on Remembrance Sunday this year and full details should be known and made public by next week."

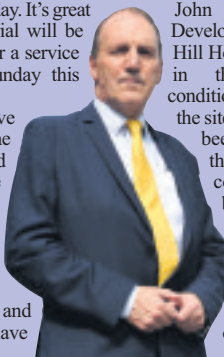
In the 1950s, the monument was incorporated into an extension of the surrounding buildings, which became the base of the Royal Marine Reserves City of London Unit. The complex was bought from the Ministry of Defence by Notting Hill Homes in 2012

Planning permission was granted to Notting Hill Homes in February for the demolition of existing buildings on the site and the construction of 51 flats, on the condition that the memorial was dismantled, placed in storage and then replaced in the same position when building works were completed.

As part of the planning process, a representative of the Queen's Regiment Bermondsey was consulted. The regiment had no objections to the memorial's removal, on the condition that it was in place and publicly accessible in time for the regiment's Memorial Day service in November 2014.

John Hughes, Group Development Director at Notting Hill Housing, said: "As outlined in the original planning conditions, the War Memorial on the site at Old Jamaica Road has been reinstated in time for the Armistice Day commemorations and will be on view from 4.30pm on Friday 31 October.

"We're pleased to be able to make the War Memorial available ahead of such an important occasion."



Heygate deal a step closer to being published

By Amelia Burr

amelia@southwarknews.co.uk

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL is one step closer to finally publishing a report detailing its deal with Lend Lease over the amount of affordable housing to go on the former Heygate Estate, after a tribunal ordered most of it to be made public over four months ago.

Former Heygate resident, Adrian Glasspool, asked the council to reveal the information after its 35 per cent minimum affordable housing quota was relaxed to 25 per cent for the development.

The council appealed against an order from the Information Commissioner to make the information public. A tribunal in May ordered the council to make most of the document public and negotiate with the Information Commissioner on the few items which could be redacted before it was published.

After some delays, which the council said were down to the Information Commission, an agreement was reached last week and the final version of the document is now on its way to Mr Glasspool, who has a month to respond.

Cllr Mark Williams, Southwark's cabinet member for regeneration, said:

"Southwark Council has always been keen to see this matter resolved as quickly as possible as we believe that the council struck a good deal regarding the regeneration of the Heygate... It was the tribunal that called for further discussion between the council, Lend Lease and the Information Commissioner in the autumn.

"That has happened and there is now general agreement between us. The next stage should be for Mr Glasspool's legal representatives to consider the information disclosed to them, to see if they may wish to make any further representations to the tribunal."



Heroes march 10 years on

News Pages 18&19