

**NOTICE OF MOTION
INDEPENDENT MEMBER****MARY CLARKE STATUE**

This council is honoured to have granted £10,000 to the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal - to provide a bronze maquette (model) of the eventual statue - and recognises the historical importance of this memorial statue and its social and educational potential as a symbol of democracy, equality and women's rights and should therefore continue to actively support and publicise this initiative.

This council requests the Chair of the TECC Committee ensures that officers bring a report to the next meeting of the committee that details ways in which the council, working across its departments and in liaison with the Mary Clarke Statue Appeal, can promote public awareness and help raise the remaining £60,000 required to fund the statue.

Proposed by: Cllr Janio

Seconded by: Cllr Grimshaw

Supporting Information:

Mary Jane Goulden, later Mary Clarke, was born in 1862 in Salford. She ran a shop with her sister Emmeline Pankhurst, was a co-founder of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and became Organiser for Brighton from 1909 to 1910.

Mary had escaped a deeply unhappy nine-year marriage to John Clarke, during which she experienced abuse, destitution and homelessness. Thereafter she dedicated her life to the struggle for women's suffrage and was deeply committed to the cause. Mary was imprisoned three times for minor offences and led at least one delegation to Parliament in January 1909, which led to her arrest and imprisonment.

During her time as WSPU organiser in Brighton Mary lodged with Minnie Turner in her boarding house 'Sea View' at 13 Victoria Road. From this address and the WSPU office at the Quadrant near Brighton's Clock Tower, she helped build the WSPU operation in the South East of England and in 1910 ran the General Election campaign.

Mary attended the notorious 'Black Friday' events on 18th November 1910, where, over a period of six hours, 300 women outside Parliament were brutally beaten and deliberately sexually assaulted by uniformed and plain-clothed police. She was arrested for breaking a window and imprisoned in Holloway Prison for one month. Despite her frailty, Mary went on hunger strike and was forcibly fed. Two days after release from prison, on Christmas Day 1910, she collapsed and died of a brain haemorrhage.

Mary's death never received the publicity of Emily Wilding Davison's violent end under the Kings' horse on Derby Day 2013. Nonetheless, her grief-stricken sister Emmeline understood the political significance of her death. She wrote to C.P. Scott of the woman she called her "Dearest Sister" and said "She is the first to die. How many must follow before the men of your Party realise their responsibility."

