

Guidelines for Blue Plaques in Sunderland

Commemorative plaques, which can be found on buildings of all styles and dates, are one of the most effective means of celebrating our history and the historic environment. *Although permission is not required from Sunderland City Council, it is good practice to seek advice and guidance before starting the process of erecting a blue plaque.*

This document is intended to provide practical guidance in the process of installing a blue plaque within Sunderland.

The City of Sunderland has approximately 77 Blue Plaques to date (2018). The Heritage Team have recently carried out an audit of blue plaques across the city and have published a detailed list which is now available at www.sunderland.gov.uk/heritage-blue-plaques

Blue plaques should be erected to commemorate historically important people or events linked to a particular place within the City of Sunderland. There is a set of criteria (set by English Heritage) against which to consider erecting a blue plaque in order to ensure that the people or events commemorated are of sufficient local historic importance or eminence to warrant recognition:

- The person should be deceased and at least ten years should normally have passed since their death
- The person should have made a significant contribution to the history of Sunderland or be eminent through their profession or calling
- Their time in Sunderland must have been a significant period, either in duration or importance, within their life and work
- The plaque is situated on the building with which they are associated, either as their home or place of work and in a prominent position. If the building is [Listed](#) permission will be needed from a Sunderland City Council Planning Officer before proceeding
- There should only be one plaque dedicated to that person within Sunderland

Events to be commemorated should:

- Have occurred at least twenty years ago
- Be instantly recognisable to the majority of the general public
- Have significance to the City of Sunderland

Locations or particular buildings should:

- Be known locally or nationally as of especial significance and worthy of lasting recognition
- Have some visible remains intact.

Funding

An estimate of the current cost of a plaque is approximately £350. This covers the cost of manufacture only. The erection of the plaque will also need to be considered by the individual or group who is responsible. Sunderland City Council is unable to provide funding for blue plaques however; the following websites provide more information about funding that may be available to local community groups:

www.hlf.org.uk

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Community Chest Grants

Please contact the necessary area officer at Sunderland City Council.

Private sponsorship or donation is another possible source of funding to investigate, particularly if there is a connection to a specific subject of interest.

Promotion of the plaque

Once the plaque is installed groups or individuals may wish to consider an unveiling ceremony which is an opportunity to promote and launch the plaque to the general public. Contact with the local media will attract public interest.

Information regarding blue plaques should be forwarded to Sunderland City Council's Heritage Team for inclusion on a city-wide list:

info.heritage@sunderland.gov.uk or telephone 0191 561 8413.