

**PRESS RELEASE : Immediate Release**

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

**CAMPAIGN WELCOMES LONDON MAYOR'S PROPOSAL FOR TEMPORARY  
INSTALLATION OF SIR KEITH PARK STATUE ON 4<sup>th</sup> PLINTH**

- **Mayor announces plans to celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Battle of Britain in 2010 by erecting Sir Keith Park statue on Fourth Plinth for 6 months**
- **Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign thanks Mayor for his continuing practical support**
- **Temporary installation on Fourth Plinth will be followed by a permanent installation at a prestigious site in central London**

Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, said today he would like to see a statue of Sir Keith Park installed for at least six months on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 2010. His comments come as the Campaign continues to attract support across the political spectrum and the country. The Mayor's further reiteration of his support was immediately welcomed by the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign.

The news follows a written statement given by the Mayor in the London Assembly last week in which he said the Fourth Plinth "would be a wonderful spot" for the statue.

In his remarks today, the Mayor pledged that he and his Director of Arts, Culture and the Creative Industries Policy, Munira Mirza, would be working with the Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign and the planning authority, Westminster City Council, towards a temporary installation on the Fourth Plinth, followed by a subsequent installation of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Statue at a suitable and prestigious site in London.

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, said today that:

*"I believe it would be appropriate to have a temporary memorial of Sir Keith Park on the Fourth Plinth to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. I will do everything in my power to help make this happen, and to subsequently assist in finding a permanent prestigious site in Central London."*

Sir Keith Park Memorial Campaign instigator, Terry Smith commented:

*"I am delighted that the Mayor, Boris Johnson, has reaffirmed his commitment to seeing a statue of Sir Keith Park installed on the Fourth Plinth, albeit temporarily."*

*"I've told the Mayor that I will look forward to working constructively with him to find a permanent home for the memorial of a man who did so much to save London during the Battle of Britain. As 2010 is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there could be no more fitting time to commemorate Park's leadership, the sacrifices of all 'The Few' who flew under his command, and to remind people of the close bonds that unite Britain and New Zealand."*

*"We are grateful for the support Boris Johnson has given the Campaign to date and we look forward to working with him and his Team at City Hall, as well as with Westminster City Council, to overcome any obstacles to achieving this, and to see Sir Keith Park's statue on the Fourth Plinth."*

**ENDS**

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– THE –  
**SIR KEITH PARK**  
– MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN –

**Notes to Editors**

1. **Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Rodney Park, GCB, KBE, MC and Bar, DFC, RAF** was the RAF Air Vice-Marshal commanding 11 Group Fighter Command, responsible for the aerial defence of London and South East England during the Battle of Britain. His inspirational leadership and tactical brilliance was central to Britain winning the battle, which in turn helped determine the outcome of the entire Second World War. Sir Keith went on to lead the air defence of Malta in 1942, subsequently reaching the rank of Air Chief Marshal in South East Asia at the end of the war. During the First World War, Sir Keith served at Gallipoli and then the Somme before becoming a pilot and shooting down 20 enemy aircraft.
2. The Campaign was launched on 7<sup>th</sup> March when Battle of Britain pilots, senior serving RAF officers, a great-great niece of Sir Keith Park, politicians and many other supporters assembled in Trafalgar Square beside a full-size replica Spitfire.
3. The Campaign unveiled a maquette – scale model – of the proposed statue at the RAF Club in London on 18<sup>th</sup> April. The Campaign also organised a fly-in to Biggin Hill Airport of Battle of Britain aircraft on 29<sup>th</sup> April. The aircraft were met by Battle of Britain veterans. On 13<sup>th</sup> May, the New Zealand Black Caps cricket team pledged their support at a photo call at Lord's ahead of the First Test against England.
4. Campaign leader Terry Smith flew to New Zealand in early May where he met over 30 members of Sir Keith Park's family and high profile supporters of the Campaign, including parliamentarians and New Zealand Defence Minister, Phil Goff, who recently wrote to Defence Secretary Des Browne expressing support for the Campaign. While in New Zealand, the Campaign received the support of 'Lord of the Rings' director, Peter Jackson.
5. Over 50 MPs have signed Early Day Motion 1206 in the House of Commons in support of the Campaign.
6. 5000 people have so far signed the Campaign's e-petition, available at <http://www.sirkeithpark.com/petition.aspx> and also as a hard copy petition.
7. Nearly 1000 people have signed a No. 10 Downing Street e-petition, available to view at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/SirKeithPark/>.
8. Terry Smith is the Chief Executive of Tullett Prebon plc and Chairman of Collins Stewart plc. He has a keen interest in military history.
9. Other supporters of the campaign include: Boris Johnson MP; Algy Cluff; Dr John Hood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burridge; Air Marshal Clifford Spink; Lord Lee of Trafford; Lord Selkirk; Rt Hon Lord Trefgarne; Mark Field MP; Richard Benyon MP and the Hon Nicholas Soames MP, Dr. Stephen Bungay, Sir Patrick Moore, Edward Fox and Dan Snow, Roger Evans GLAM and Brian Coleman GLAM.
10. For more information, please visit our website at [www.sirkeithpark.com](http://www.sirkeithpark.com).