

Between the summer of 1940 and spring 1944 there were

98 bombing raids on Eastbourne...

671 high explosives were dropped and there were **3,625 incendiaries**

Of the civilian casualties, numbering over 1,100, 180 people died, 443 were seriously injured and 489 slightly hurt. 475 houses were destroyed and 1,000 seriously damaged. Many town centre businesses were damaged or destroyed, and a number of seafront hotels were also hit.

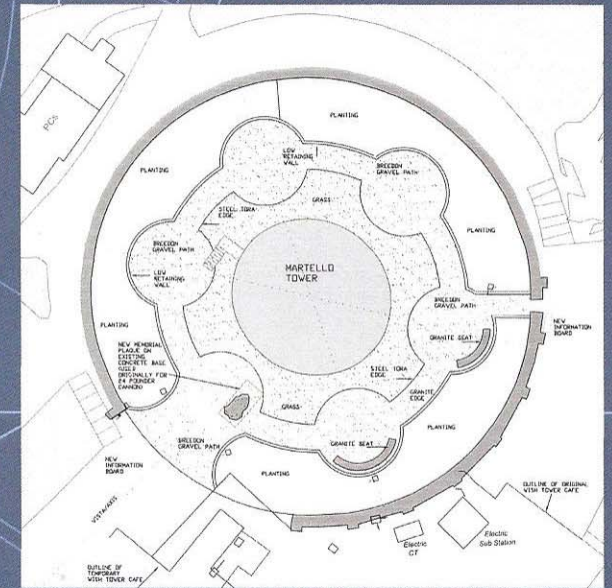
The former Wish Tower Sun Lounge and Café, below, was established in 1961 as a memorial to those who lost their lives, but due to structural problems this was demolished by Eastbourne Borough Council in 2012. The Town has been without a visible memorial to the bombing victims ever since.

The Council has now given planning permission for the creation of a memorial within the Wish



Tower moat, and for the regeneration of the area surrounding the tower as a peace garden providing space for quiet remembrance of the tragedies of the past, but also for grateful reflection on many years of peace. The project also has the approval of Historic England.

The memorial and peace garden has been designed by architects Wendy and Tara Thomas, and landscape designer Andrew Norwood, and will take the form of a large granite stone, similar to the one pictured, supporting a bronze plaque listing the names of all the civilians who lost their lives in bombing raids.



The Eastbourne Civilian War Memorial Trust has already received over £30,000 in donations, which will enable a start on the project. But another 45,000 will be required to carry it through to completion.

