

Policy for requests for memorial benches at Liquorice Park

1. Introduction

The Park receives occasional requests from members of the public who wish to place a memorial bench within the Park space. These are often where individuals or families have a particular connection or special fondness with the Park. In the past requests have been considered on an “ad hoc” basis and this has resulted in inappropriate styles and siting of benches and some difficulties with maintenance. This policy covers the provision of memorial benches in the Park and is designed to give clarity for future requests. It will result in any future benches having appropriate styles and being installed in appropriate locations to ensure they are easy to maintain and not unduly prone to vandalism. The operating principles below will ensure that requests for memorial benches are responded to in a consistent, efficient and helpful manner.

First and foremost, the park is a natural wild space, and all seating needs to be carefully considered. It is not a memorial garden. As such any seating should be functional and in keeping with the natural space.

2. Current policy

Any additional seating needs careful consideration both on the effects on the natural surroundings, wildlife, social and anti-social grounds before been allowed.

3. Procedure for applying for consideration of a memorial bench

Any request for the installation of a bench needs to be made in writing to the Chair of the trustees together with the reason for the request.

All decisions concerning requests for benches, their design, location and any plaque, are decided upon by the trustees of the Park at their absolute discretion. There is no appeal.

4. “Exceptional cases “

The trustees will decide what amounts to “exceptional” at their absolute discretion, taking into account the current state of the park, consistent with the statement of aims of the founding trust deed.

5. Further information

In the event of the trustees deciding that a request may be considered then the Chair of trustees will liaise with those requesting the bench to agree the detail including design and price of purchase and installation. A provisional decision can then be made by the trustees. All costs must then be paid in full to the Trust before a formal approval is granted. In the event of agreement not being reached then any payments made to the trust will be reimbursed.

Purchase of a memorial bench will be for the expected life period of the bench only, after which time it will be removed. The cost will include the bench, plaque, inscription, installation and surfacing and, as the benches should require minimal maintenance, there will be no additional cost for this.

The Trust’s will use its best endeavours to maintain the bench to a suitable standard of maintenance and this will be accepted as keeping the bench fit for purpose and clean. This will involve occasionally removing built up algae and grime, removal of graffiti and repairing minor faults

within resources available. ***The trust will remove the bench at any point if repair isn't possible following accident/vandalism etc. and may re-position the bench if a future need arises.***

Upon installation the Chair of trustees will ensure a letter and photograph are sent by post or email to the donor to notify them that the bench is in place.

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