



WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Policy on Memorial Benches, Trees, and Shrubs

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Wareham Town Council (the Council) understands and respects the wishes of residents to commemorate occasions and remember loved ones through the placing of memorial benches and trees on land owned and maintained by the Council. The Council is aware that these spaces are enjoyed by a wide range of people and therefore must ensure that this issue is managed and regulated for the mutual benefit of everyone.

It is the policy of the Council to consider all applications for memorial benches, trees, and shrubs, but reserves the right to refuse any application that it deems inappropriate or impractical for any reason. The decision of the Council shall be final.

This policy will be made available to the public and all applicants for memorial benches, trees and shrubs will be issued with a copy.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The policy will ensure that only memorial benches, trees, and shrubs instigated by the next of kin or executor are installed, and that benches have a common appearance, style and size which are appropriate for that location and will not cause offence to others.

The policy will also establish responsibility for maintenance, repair, and replacement.

Location

The Council cannot guarantee a location for individual memorials but will liaise with the applicant prior to any tree/shrub planting or siting of benches to ensure that a suitable location is agreed.

The planting of Memorial trees and shrubs shall only be carried out between November and February to ensure the most efficient growing conditions.

Memorial Period

All memorials are for an initial 10-year period and will be renewed after this period if the applicant wishes. The fee covers the purchase, delivery, and installation of the memorial, together with the on-going repair and maintenance for the 10-year period.

Should the applicant no longer wish the memorial to remain at the end of the 10-year period, any memorial plaques shall be removed by the Council and may be collected by the applicant from the Council Office.

Memorials

Wareham Town Council offers memorialisation within its property ownership, which may include (subject to availability) the following:

- Memorial tree with or without a plaque
- Memorial shrub with or without a plaque
- Memorial bench with plaque
- Memorial plaque on an existing bench

Memorial benches, trees and shrubs shall be positioned to maximize the benefit and development of the location, but the Council will attempt to accommodate the wishes of the applicants.

The Council will limit the number of memorial benches in particular areas so that they shall not detract from the prime purpose of the location. The Council reserves the right to refuse applications on this basis.

The Council shall specify the type of benches, trees, and shrubs to be installed/planted in order that they remain in keeping with the intended location.

Ashes

The scattering of ashes or the placing or burial of ashes under memorial benches, shrubs, or trees is not permitted by law.

Inscriptions for both Bench & Tree Plaques

Memorial plaques shall be affixed in the centre of the backrest of the bench. In the case of trees and shrubs plaques shall be secured by a central pointed fixing.

The inscription on the plaque is to be restricted to "In (Loving) Memory of" the name of the person and the dates of birth and death.

Process

Once an application has been received and location agreed, the Council shall arrange for the purchase and planting/installation of the preferred memorial.

The Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorial benches, trees, or shrubs from vandals, third parties, or whilst the Council carries out routine maintenance in the location.

The Council will not grant applications for memorials for pets.

No additional mementoes, such as vases, statues, flowers, wreaths, balloons, or other ornamentation, are permitted on or around memorial benches, shrubs, or trees. These shall be removed without reference to the original applicant.

Payment

A charge will be payable to cover the cost of the seat, its installation and maintenance for the first ten years. Charges will be reviewed annually. The current charges are:

<i>New seat in new location</i>	£
<i>First ten years</i>	<i>2000.00</i>
<i>Subsequent ten years</i>	<i>350.00</i>
<i>Refurbishment in original location</i>	£
<i>First ten years</i>	<i>800.00</i>
<i>Subsequent ten years</i>	<i>350.00</i>

At the end of the 10-year period, those individuals or organisations who proposed the memorial seat should be contacted to confirm whether they would like to continue with the memorial seat in situ or fund a replacement for a further 10 years.

Payment is required with every completed application form. The application form will be sent out once the type of memorial and location has been agreed. Cheques should be made payable to Wareham Town Council.

Conditions

The Council reserves the right to plant trees, install benches or place memorial plaques where suitable, but will, where appropriate, accommodate requests.

Benches will be of a type and specification similar to those shown in Appendix A.

Once planted/installed, the tree/shrub/bench cannot be repositioned or removed from the site. However, should a tree or bench become unsafe, the Council reserves the right to remove it immediately in the interest of health and safety until repairs or replacement can take place. The Council reserves the right to remove any bench, tree or shrub, which in its opinion is damaged or beyond economic repair but will endeavour to liaise with the applicant regarding any replacement.

The Council will maintain responsibility for the memorial and associated plaque during the 10-year period. This will include any preservation, treatment, or minor repair works where required due to fair wear and tear.

APPENDIX A

Bench A - 3-seater Stanford™ Seat (traditionally styled with 100% recycled cast aluminium ends and recycled material slats).



Bench B - 3-seater Winawood Speyside, 100% recycled plastic in grey.



Bench C - 3-seater Hyde Park Bench 100% recycled plastic in brown.



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