

Memorial benches

Background

We have been approached several times in the last three months about installing benches on our land in memory of a loved one. It is recognised that it would be a nice thing to do if possible but there are no guidelines for Town Hall officers to work to.

The residents have been advised that we do not necessarily have the space to install new benches on request. We have taken contact details in case a bench needs to be replaced, and in the meantime are asking the following questions

- A) The preferred location
- B) How it would be funded – an assumption will always be that it would be at the requestor's expense
- C) Would they consider the installation of a plaque on an existing bench if we cannot grant their request for a bench?

There are several issues to be considered:

- 1) Our open green space being cluttered up with benches
- 2) Funding the purchase, installation and ongoing maintenance costs
- 3) Consistent bench style with others in the immediate area
- 4) Consistent plaque style across the parish

RECOMMENDATION: Unless a bench needs to be replaced, or the suggested location is appropriate for a new bench to be sited, the Council agrees to the installation of a plaque onto an existing bench. In either situation, to be installed by the Council, or their contractor, and to be paid for by the requestor.