

For publication

Memorial Bench Policy for Cemeteries (HW390)

Meeting: Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Date: 23 November, 2020

Cabinet portfolio: Health and Wellbeing

Report by: Bereavement Services Manager

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1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To implement a Policy for the Management of Memorial Benches in Chesterfield Borough Council Cemeteries at Boythorpe, Spital, Brimington and Staveley.

2.0 Background

2.1 Chesterfield Borough Council's four Cemeteries are Managed by the Bereavement Services based at Chesterfield and District Crematorium.

2.2 For many years, memorial benches have been a popular way of commemorating the deceased.

At Chesterfield and District Crematorium a scheme is in place where benches are adopted for a period of time. During this period of adoption, benches are regularly inspected and maintained. The scheme allows uniformity, promotes health and safety through maintenance and provides an income stream. As the benches are regularly inspected and maintained, they add aesthetic value to the Grounds.

Within the Council's Cemeteries, there is no scheme in place.

Informal arrangements, in place for many years, have previously allow for a family to choose their own bench, to which a base is prepared free of charge by the CBC Cemetery Team. There is currently no end date to the seat being in place and no inspection regime that would ensure that the seat is in safe and sound order.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the attached Policy is approved and adopted by the Cemeteries Office.
- 3.2 That a fee of £200.00 be added to the Cemetery Fees and Charges described as "Permit to Install Memorial Bench".

4.0 Reasons For Recommendations

- 4.1 To ensure that benches in Cemeteries are regularly inspected and are in a safe condition to comply with the Council's obligations Health and Safety obligations to visitors to the Cemeteries.
- 4.2 To introduce a permit application to ensure that proposed benches are only approved if they are in keeping with the Cemetery.
- 4.3 To obtain income for services previously provided free of charge which cover the cost of installation and annual inspection. It is anticipated that approximately £1200 additional income per annum will be recovered.
- 4.4 To allow for the removal of benches that fall into disrepair, usually due to reasons of long neglect, in an approved and orderly manner.

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