

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy on Memorial Benches, Trees and Shrubs within Parks and Green Spaces

Introduction

The Council supports the needs and principles of allowing memorials in parks and on green space areas but the council is also mindful that these facilities have many uses, and are enjoyed by a wide range of people. Therefore the Council will ensure that the issue is managed sensitively and regulated for the benefit of all.

It is the intention that the policy only covers broad common issues and is not meant to be exhaustive. It is the intention that the content of this policy will be revised as necessary to meet challenging circumstances, fashions and trends will be reviewed on an annual basis.

This policy will be made available to the general public and all applicants for memorials will be issued with a copy.

Objectives of the policy

The Council is seeking to ensure that it is adopting a clear, measurable and sympathetic approach to the management of its facilities, which will take account of the contrasting needs of a variety of facility users.

The policy will also ensure that memorials are erected only following a request by the next of kin or Executor and that memorials have a common appearance, style and size that will not cause offence to others.

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

The Council, through the policy, will endeavour to always offer the highest standard of service in undertaking its management and regulatory responsibility.

General

- 1) All memorials should be paid for by the applicant on or before the completion of the installation.
- 2) Memorials will be positioned to maximise the benefit and development of the park. The Council may limit the number of memorials in a particular area.
- 3) The Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorials from vandals, third parties or whilst the Council carries out routine maintenance in the parks and open spaces.
- 4) The Authorised Officer shall notify the applicant in the event that the memorial is damaged but in the view of the Authorised Officer is capable of economic repair.
- 5) It will be the applicant's sole responsibility to initiate and fund any repair and maintenance work required.
- 6) Permission should be sought prior to repair or maintenance works commencing on memorials.
- 7) The Council reserves the right to remove any memorials that have been damaged beyond economical repair or have not been repaired within 4 weeks of the notification referred to in the (4) above.
- 8) The Council shall not be liable for the replacement of old or diseased plants.
- 9) The Council will not grant applications for memorials to pets.
- 10) The number of memorials shall not detract from the prime recreational purpose of the facility. Therefore, the size and location of the park or green space shall limit the number of plaques or benches permitted. The Council reserves the right on this basis.
- 11) Benches will be of the type and colour specified by the Council to be in keeping with the intended location.
- 12) No additional mementos e.g. vases, statues, flowers or wreaths etc, shall be permitted on or around the memorial.