

Brompton Town Council

Council Policy for the Siting of Commemorative/Memorial Benches in Public Open Spaces.

Brompton Town Council will facilitate the purchase and placement of memorial benches in public open spaces owned or managed by the Council on request and where appropriate opportunities exist.

Aim.

The aim of this policy is to lay down the considerations regarding the placement of memorial or commemorative benches within Brompton Parish.

Introduction.

Brompton Town Council occasionally receives requests to place a commemorative/memorial bench within a public open space. These are often in places with which individuals or families have a particular connection or special relationship. There is no legislative requirement for the provision of public or memorial benches but it is accepted that they provide a useful and valued public amenity.

General.

Most requests have been accommodated but procedures followed have varied over time. The case by case approach is generally accommodating to the donor but could lead to over provision and inappropriate siting of memorial benches in some areas. Other problems relate to maintenance difficulties due to a wide range of bench styles being used and ineffective recording of memorial bench information.

This policy recognises the need for a consistent approach to the provision of commemorative/memorial benches in public open spaces.

Policy:

1. Location:

- a. Suitable locations where people are likely to make good use of the bench will be considered but only on sites which do not already have a sufficient number of benches; all placements must be agreed by the Council.
- b. Placements will only be agreed in areas which lack any seating nearby or are at a likely stopping point such as a particular view or rest point on a path. In addition, the location will be chosen to minimise future maintenance and vandalism.
- c. Requests for benches to be sited in the cemetery will be considered only for those buried within the cemetery.
- d. Although the Council is responsible for St Thomas's church yard, the siting of a bench within the church grounds can only be granted through the Parochial Church Council.
- e. Allocation of sites for memorial benches will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.

f. Where there is no space for an additional commemorative/memorial bench, requests for placement of a memorial plaque with a newly planted tree will be considered. The tree and plaque to be paid for by the applicant.

g. The Council retains the right to move the position of the bench at any time, should they consider this appropriate. All reasonable attempts will be undertaken by the Council to advise the donor or their representatives of their action and the new siting of the bench.

2. Installation:

a. The Council must agree the type of specified bench, appropriate fixings, proposed location, installation process and wording of inscriptions before any action is taken.

b. The donor will be responsible for the meeting of all costs, including the purchase of the bench and fixings, the inscription and installation.

c. The installation must take place at a time agreed with the Council, by an agreed installer.

d. All benches must be constructed of hard wood and coloured brown.

e. All benches must be sited on a concrete base.

3. Maintenance:

a. The maintenance of the bench will be the responsibility of the donor, or their representatives. This will involve occasionally removing built up algae and grime, removal of graffiti, repairing minor faults and making good of damage incurred from whatever source. The Council's standards of maintenance will be accepted as keeping the bench fit for purpose and clean.

b. Purchase of a memorial bench will be for the expected life period of the bench only, after which time it may be removed. Should a donor request a replacement commemorative/memorial bench it will be treated in the same way as a new bench.

c. The same conditions on life expectancy and maintenance will apply to any existing benches as apply to new benches.

4. Removal:

The Council retains the right to remove the bench from the site should the bench be considered unserviceable. All reasonable attempts will be made to contact the original donor or representatives before this action is taken.