

## Provision of Memorial Benches in Public Open Spaces



1. Only sites which do not already have a sufficient number of benches will be considered. This will be determined by any site-specific management plans.
2. Suitable locations within the site have been identified by the Council. These will be 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 has been chosen to minimise future maintenance and vandalism.
3. In locations where there will be several benches in the same area, no more than 50% will be offered as a placement for a memorial bench. This is to prevent the area taking on the ambience of a dedicated memorial garden which may compromise the enjoyment of the space for general recreational activities.
4. A limited selection of suitable low maintenance standard designs for memorial benches will be available at a range of costs, the choice of bench being dependent on the location. Annex 1 shows the range of bench and plaque options.
5. Occasionally a unique rather than standard bench design may be requested as a memorial. In these circumstances, details of the bench construction, materials and specifications will need to be submitted to the Recreation Committee for approval. On approval the bench would then be supplied to the Grounds Manager for installation in an agreed location. There is no guarantee that damage could be repaired and any costly repairs would be at the discretion of the Council.
6. Purchase of a memorial bench will be for the expected life period of the bench only, after which time it will be removed. The cost will include the bench, plaque, inscription, installation and surfacing and, as the benches should require minimal maintenance, there will be no additional cost for this. The cost and life expectancy of the bench will depend on the type of bench and its location. Any replacement would be treated in the same way as a new memorial bench. To ensure installation is undertaken safely to the required standards, the Council will order and install the memorial bench with plaque and surfacing in all cases.
7. Where there is no space for an additional memorial bench, requests for placement of a memorial plaque on an existing bench will be considered where the bench is in good condition and point 3 above has been assessed. A charge which includes the cost of the plaque and installation will be required. The same conditions on life expectancy and maintenance will apply to any existing benches as apply to new benches.
8. The Council's standards of maintenance will be accepted as keeping the bench fit for purpose and clean. This will involve occasionally removing built up algae and grime, removal of graffiti and repairing minor faults within resources available. There is a move away from regular painting as in the long term this proves more costly than just replacing the bench when it has reached the end of its natural life. The range of new benches has been chosen for durability without the need for regular painting or treatment.

## **Annex 1**

Council styles of new memorial benches with plaques. Plaques can be fitted to some existing benches.

### **Benches**

BLPC preferred supplier based on previous experience, product range and pricing is Glasdon Ltd. In order to maintain a consistent style of bench throughout BLPC sites, the available options as at October 2021, which may vary and be updated from time to time, for a memorial bench are as follows:

1. Solo Phoenix <https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-materials-seating/phoenix-single-seat>
2. Duo Phoenix 2 seat bench <https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-materials-seating/phoenix-double-seat>
3. Phoenix Bench <https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-materials-seating/phoenix-tm-recycled-material-seat>
4. Elwood Bench <https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-materials-seating/elwood-tm-recycled-material-seat>
5. Phoenix Jubilee Bench <https://uk.glasdon.com/seating/recycled-materials-seating/phoenix-jubilee-tm-recycled-material-seat>

Glasdon Ltd has advised that the Timberpol finish on all the above benches is not suitable for public open spaces due to the difficulty in removing graffiti from this finish.

### **Memorial plaques**

Plaques are stainless steel and measure 19 x 5cms. Text is Arial font style and can be up to 50 characters. All text must be approved by the Senior Administration Officer.

### **Maintenance standard**

Benches will be kept fit for purpose with minor faults being repaired and build-up of algae or grime being removed within available resources.