

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Planning & Environment Committee

Commemorative Options

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 Following on from discussions at Full Council on 25 November 2019, there are a number of options that the Parish Council could consider that would offer residents of West Swindon the opportunity to commemorate a person within the Parish boundary.

2. Options:

- 2.1 Parish Council focus has been on the introduction of a commemorative bench scheme however this has natural limitations on how many can be introduced due to the size, location and other considerations necessary for the addition of a bench. Lydiard Park has hosted a field of remembrance in partnership with the Royal British Legion and has reported that it has been the recipient of unofficial tokens of remembrance. In expectation that local residents would be interested in a commemorative scheme, it is important to consider schemes that would be affordable, achievable, and would allow for wider participation.
- 2.2 There are many options that offer a space for remembrance or commemoration. As the Parish Council does not own or manage any buildings, there are outdoor options such as
- **garden of remembrance** – usually a more formally planted space that may host memorial plaques on trees, shrubs and ornaments
 - **memorial wall with plaques**
this can be inside an existing garden or created as a visiting place or space for contemplation.



- **remembrance trees – adhoc planting**
residents could have the option to add a plaque to an existing tree or to purchase a tree, the species and type being dependent on location.

Restrictions are that most trees would be planted between October and March. Donors may want to be present when it is planted.

- **remembrance trees – arboretum**

This can be trees with plaques or can be a sculpture/art work



- **remembrance pathways, paving, sunken sleepers**



- 2.3 Parish Councils that offer a memorial wall or memorial garden often have this linked to a parish cemetery, crematorium service, and or a garden of remembrance. In other circumstances it may be linked to a war memorial..
- 2.4 West Swindon Parish Council currently has none of these available but it does have a range of green open spaces and as there are no set rules, the Parish Council could think creatively about remembrance spaces.
- 2.5 The Parish Councils generally charge for a plaque and it is usually within the remit of £100 however they generally cost in the region of £25.00 to purchase inscribed. Usually for paving or sculpture, the donor would cover the cost of the materials.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 With all memorial or remembrance spaces, respect and protection of the space is of paramount importance. Security and theft may also be an issue. If spaces are to be gated, there will be resource issues to ensure the space is opened, cleaned etc.
- 3.2 The Parish Council has determined the framework for commemorative schemes so new schemes could be added over time.
- 3.3 Sometimes there may be personalisation of spaces (e.g. objects in memory of the person) which can either be monitored carefully or allowed to flourish. Memorial gardens often undertake a periodic 'clearance' of items following public notice that removal is planned.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee considers the report and appoints a working party to review the options in more detail.

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