

# **EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Policy with respect to memorial donations**

### **1. Introduction**

The Parish Council owns or controls a number of areas of land in the Parish (see Appendix) and receives requests for memorials to be located on these sites in memory of persons or events. The memorials most usually requested are of individual or groups of trees, with or without memorial plaques, benches, again with or without memorial plaques, or simply memorial plaques.

Whilst the Council is sympathetic to all such requests it is often placed in difficulties in responding as the requests are sometimes for memorials that do not accord with the Council's management strategies for the areas concerned. They could also create a precedent that make it difficult for the Council to refuse (If it wanted to) subsequent applications for similar memorials in the same or a different location. The Council, however, has no guidance that assists in responding to requests and this document seeks to remedy that deficiency.

The document sets down a number of general points of guidance and also, in the appendix, describes some of the particular issues that apply to each of the areas listed.

### **2. Guidance**

#### **a) Plaques**

The Council will not, for any of its sites, accept simple memorial plaques for individuals. To do so would create a precedent that would make it difficult to refuse further requests.

Plaques commemorating events would be considered individually but would only be favourably viewed if they related to an event of Parish wide interest.

#### **b) Benches, picnic tables etc**

The Council welcomes donations of benches, picnic tables etc with or without memorial plaques, but only in locations where they would have practical value and would not be obtrusive in an otherwise attractive location.

The Appendix contains further guidance.

Donated benches must be able to withstand the severe treatment that they may receive in a public location and should be of the type which the Council currently provides for new and replacement seating. Benches are often located on the public highway for which Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority. The Parish Council will liaise with the County Council on the donor's behalf to seek approval to a proposed location and will assume responsibility for maintenance of the bench. If the equipment, in time, requires replacing due to damage or age, the Council will replace with its standard supply at the time.

#### **c) Trees**

The Council would welcome donation of individual trees or groups of trees, with or without memorial plaques. Donations must, however, respect the nature of the

recipient site and not conflict with it. Many sites, including those which already have trees, may not be suitable for tree planting or may not be suitable for particular types of tree. The appendix contains further guidance.

d) Planters

The Council welcomes donations of planters, with or without memorial plaques, provided that they are to the Council's current specification, and will assist in finding a suitable location. These are often on the public highway for which Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority. The Parish Council will liaise with the County Council on the donor's behalf to seek approval to a proposed location and will maintain and replant the planter under the planting scheme operating in the Parish. If the equipment, in time, requires replacing due to damage or age, the Council will replace with its standard supply at the time.

e) Flowers etc

The Council will not permit memorial sites to be further recorded by permanent or semi-permanent additions such as plants or objects made from non-biodegradable materials such as plastic, metal etc. These will be removed. Fresh flowers etc, preferably without wrapping, will be removed after a short interval.

f) Other donations

Other proposed donations and proposed donations of benches, planters etc which differ significantly from the Council's standard provision, as described above, would be considered individually.

This document will be reviewed periodically and changed if appropriate.

## Appendix 1

Further information and advice on sites owned or controlled by the Euxton Parish Council which may be appropriate for donations.

### 1. Euxton Millennium Green

The Green is a large and very attractive area of pond and grassland dominated by surrounding trees and containing several informal planted copses of native trees. Although much of the grassland is regularly mown, the general appearance of the Green is a casual blend of trees and open spaces.

It could accommodate additional seating or further tree planting either of individual, additional small groups of native deciduous or additions to existing tree groupings.

Exotic individual trees, conifers or formal groupings of trees (eg avenues) are not considered appropriate.

### 2. Balshaw Villa Gardens

The small area of open space at the junction of Balshaw Lane and Wigan Road is semi formal and regular in its layout. Additional seating, tree planting etc, unless carefully sited, could make the site look crowded. These will only be considered on an individual basis.

### 3. Greenside Recreation Area

The playing fields could accommodate benches in various locations. It might be difficult to offer sites suitable for tree planting as the fields accommodate several sports pitches. The Bowling Green alongside the playing fields is owned by the Council and managed by the Euxton Community Bowls Club. It is surrounded by a secure fence and members of the public can only access the Green and its surroundings subject to the timetable of the Club, or by arrangement with the Council. The green is not openly available to members of the public. Any donations of seats etc would have to respect these restrictions.

### 4. Chapel Brook Land - land alongside Wigan Road and adjacent to the Parish Church and Chapel Brook

The Council has recently purchased this land but has not yet developed a strategy for its future design and maintenance. The land is, however, likely to retain all existing trees that are in safe condition and is unlikely to offer any large spaces for alternative usage.

### 5. Children's play areas

The Children's Play areas owned by the Parish Council are at Balshaw Lane and Primrose Hill, alongside areas controlled by the Parish Council which are Greenside and Southport Road. There is unlikely to be room for groups of trees but may be scope for individual trees and seats. It might be difficult to protect young trees in these locations.

### 6. Land off Southport Road and the Skate Park

The land is not owned but controlled by the Parish Council. The Skate Park and its immediate surroundings east of the car park are unlikely to offer opportunities for seating and planting additional to that already there. The grassed area on the opposite side of the car park, which already has sheltered seating could accept limited further seating and individual tree planting.