



## Nantwich Town Council



### Policy on the Dedication of Benches, within the Town

Nantwich Town Council supports the needs and principles of allowing memorial benches, within the town and is mindful that these facilities are enjoyed by a wide range of people. Through this policy the Council will try to ensure that the facilities are regulated and managed. The Council recognizes however that many of the public open spaces within the town are not under its control and will seek to work with the Borough Council, Cheshire East, in pursuing this policy. The policy will be reviewed at least every four years and proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Council for approval. This policy will be made available to the general public and all applicants for memorial benches, will be issued with a copy.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY**

The Council is seeking to ensure it is adopting a clear, measurable and sympathetic approach to the management of these facilities, which takes account of the sometimes-contrasting needs of a variety of users.

The policy will also ensure that donated memorial benches are erected which are instigated by the next of kin or executor and that benches have a common appearance, style and size which are appropriate for that location and will not cause offence to others.

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

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

#### **Location**

On completion of your application you can select a preferred location for your bench and the Town Council will liaise with ANSA and Cheshire East to try to meet your request.

The Town Council currently do not have any plans for sighting new benches, but will replace, update and use benches like for like that Cheshire East have already granted permission for.

#### **Memorials**

Nantwich Town Council will offer the following:

- ❖ Memorial bench with plaque
- ❖ Memorial plaque on an existing bench (subject to availability)

The Council will limit the number of memorial benches in particular areas so that they shall not detract from the prime purpose of the site. Therefore, the size and location of the site shall limit the number permitted. The Council reserves the right to refuse applications on this basis.

The Council shall specify the type of benches, to be installed to be in keeping with the intended location.

## LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The installation of benches on land as memorials, is a private arrangement between relatives commissioning the memorial, and the landowner. As such, the Town Council may support applications for benches placed on Cheshire East land, and will seek to work with the Borough Council, Cheshire East, in pursuing the request.

Generally-speaking, installing benches will not be subject to planning permission, restrictive covenants, or other restrictions. However, there may be cases where the Town Council is unable to install benches for such reasons.

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must consider the effect of its decisions on crime and disorder. It may deem a location unsuitable, if it may attract antisocial behaviour.

When the Council agrees to install a bench, they are bought by the family and donated to the Council. The bench then becomes the property of the Council, and the donor does not retain any right to determine its future management. The Council will nevertheless endeavour to ensure it is properly maintained and cared for.

### **Inscriptions for Bench**

Memorial plaques shall be affixed in the centre of the upper most lath of the back of the bench.

The inscription on the plaque is to be restricted to "In (Loving) Memory of" the name of the person and the dates of birth and death.

### **Process**

Once an application has been received and location agreed, the Town Council shall arrange for the purchase and installation of the memorial.

The Council reserves the right to remove any memorial benches, that have been damaged and are in the view of the Council beyond economical repair.

The Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorial benches, from vandals, third parties or whilst routine maintenance is being carried out.

The Council will not grant applications for memorial benches to pets.

No additional mementoes e.g. vases, statues, flowers, wreaths, balloons or other ornamentation etc., shall be permitted on or around the bench. These shall be removed without reference to the original applicant.

### **Payment**

Payment is required with every completed application form. Cheques should be made payable to Nantwich Town Council.

### **Conditions**

Nantwich Town Council reserves the right to install benches where appropriate.

Nantwich Town Council will maintain responsibility for the memorial and associated plaque. This will include any preservation, treatment, repair works and replacement of the memorial where required due to fair wear and tear or vandalism.