

RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARKS & GREEN SPACES MEMORIAL POLICY

1.0 Introduction

Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) supports the needs and principles of allowing memorials in parks and green space areas, but is also mindful that these facilities have many uses and are enjoyed by a wide range of people. The Council will therefore ensure that the issue is managed and regulated for the mutual benefit of all.

2.0 Objectives of the Policy

This policy has been produced with the following guiding principles:

- To be respectful, sympathetic and easily understood by customers
- To balance the sometimes contrasting needs of a variety of facility users
- To maintain and enhance the high quality appearance of sites and not detract from their prime recreational purpose
- To clearly establish the responsibility for maintenance, repair and replacement of memorials
- To achieve full cost recovery by RBC for any memorials provided

3.0 Sites Included

Only the sites under the direct management of Rushcliffe Borough Council will be subject to this policy. Recreational open spaces within the wider borough managed by Town and Parish Councils will be subject to their own policies. The sites listed below are included within the policy, but further sites may be added in the future.

- Bridgford Park and Bridge field
- Rushcliffe Country Park
- The Hook Local Nature Reserve
- West Park

4.0 Operation of Policy

The policy will be available to the public on the RBC website and in hard copy format through Cultural Services.

4.1 General

No flower or similar memorials shall be permitted to mark the site at any time.

The Council will not grant applications for memorials to, or to scatter the ashes of pets.

4.2 Memorial Benches

Memorials will be positioned to maximise the benefit and development of the park and the number of memorials in a particular area will be limited. However the Council will attempt to accommodate the wishes of the applicants wherever possible.

In order to maintain consistency of appearance, quality and control over location, all benches will be ordered and installed by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

The total cost of the installation of a memorial bench (including plaque) will be dependant on style appropriate for the site and will be based on cost price plus 10% to cover materials and labour and ongoing maintenance.

The council in line with the current maintenance regime for benches will maintain the bench. However, no replacement liability will be accepted at the end of the useful life of the bench or if it is damaged through vandalism.

Each site has a maximum number of benches that can be accommodated and when this has been reached an alternative site will be offered. Alternatively an option to refurbish or replace an existing old bench with a new one may be offered subject to the condition of the existing bench.

4.3 Memorial Trees

The planting of memorial trees will only be permitted within Rushcliffe Country Park and at the Hook Local Nature Reserve and the number of trees permissible may be limited dependant on location.

The species of tree will be of a native variety and will be at the discretion of Rushcliffe Borough Council in keeping with the local environment. Trees will be planted during the autumn and winter planting season by Council employees, but the member of public may be present and assist if practicable and desired.

Due to large numbers of existing trees with plaques and relatively high levels of demand for trees, plaques will not be allowed on new trees.

The total cost of the tree will be dependant on style appropriate for the site and will be based on cost price plus 10% to cover materials, transport, labour and ongoing maintenance.

Rushcliffe Borough Council will not accept responsibility or liability in respect of any damage to or loss of a memorial tree unless this is reasonably shown to be due to the negligence of the Council. However if the tree dies or is vandalised within the first two years then it will be replaced free of charge.

4.4 Scattering of Ashes

Ashes shall only be scattered in a location agreed in advance by the Community Facilities Manager / Rushcliffe Country Park Manager at a predetermined time and date.

5.0 Appendices

Appendix A details the number of sites identified as available for memorial benches

APPENDIX A – Number of memorial benches available – November 2011

Location	Current number of benches	Number of additional new bench sites available
Bridgford Park / Bridgfield	36	4
Rushcliffe Country Park	n.a.	40
The Hook	6	4
West Park	4	2