

Committee: Open Spaces

Date: 5 April 2022

Title: Memorial benches

Purpose of Report

For members to consider a memorial bench at Herne Hill and another in the West Crescent area.

Recommendation:

Members recommend to Full Council that authority is delegated to officers to agree the location and siting of 2 memorial benches, one at Herne Hill and another in the area of West Crescent on a cost plus 10% basis.

Report:

1. On the 25 March 2022 a request was made to enquire about the possibility of locating a memorial bench in honour of former residents of Ilminster on Herne Hill and another near West Crescent.
2. The people requesting to place a bench there have confirmed that if members are happy to provide their consent, then they will cover the costs of the bench and plaque.
3. Any wording would be required to meet with the approval of officers and once the bench chosen has ceased to be economically maintained then it will be removed.
4. The Countryside Manager has been looking at various possible benches that would be in sympathy with the Herne Hill environment. These would be different to the benches that have been recently purchased for other locations.
5. We have had a request from Ilminster Scouts for a memorial bench to be located around West Crescent which has been discussed with the Countryside Manager.
6. It is possible to allocate one of the new benches that have been purchased from the Welcome Back Funding. They have indicated that they will be willing to pay the full costs of the benches and the memorial plaques.
7. However it is possible for the top slat on one of the new benches to be removed and replaced with a new slat that has a recess for a plaque. This would mean that the cost for the Scouts would be significantly lower and we would also have a spare slat for the benches should one be damaged in the future.
8. The Countryside Manager has been looking at various places where benches could be sited in Ilminster and is planning to bring a Memorial Bench Policy to members in the near future. In the meantime it is suggested that a cost plus 10% be charged in order to cover administration and installation.

AGENDA ITEM 9

9. Members are being asked to recommend to Full Council that authority is delegated to officers to agree the location and siting of 2 memorial benches, one at Herne Hill and another in the Area of West Crescent on a cost plus 10% basis.

**Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
April 2022**