
Agenda Item: Children's Memorial Garden

Meeting Date: Monday 7th July 2025

Contact Officer: Project Officer

Background

In January 2022, Witney Town Council (WTC) was tasked with creating a Children's Memorial Garden for the community with a budget of £1,000. WTC identified a suitable location in Windrush Cemetery that had archaeological restrictions reducing risk of burial spaces being impacted. The budget only allowed for a small number of features, namely Bench, Metal Archway and Pebble Pond. WTC also planted an attractive plant to grow over the arch, sadly this died due to poor soil condition.



Due to the budget constraint the garden was delivered the best it could be, but WTC always felt more could be done. Officers have identified an opportunity to improve the garden by utilising £1,500 of the "Britain in Bloom" budget for improvements.

Current Situation

- Officers fully explored several appropriate ornaments and features to improve the memorial garden but couldn't implement due to archaeological and budget constraints.
- Officers were inspired by the wooden monolith installed at Windrush Cemetery and researched the possibility of installing a smaller version in the Children's Memorial Garden.
- After engaging with the same supplier of the larger monolith, they presented the council with a favourable quote of £200 for a custom monolith.
- To take advantage of the deal and complete this historic project, officers proceeded with purchase and installation.



- Officers also implemented the process for members of the public to purchase customised pebbles to add to the pebble pond.

Impact Assessments

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council's Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

- Monolith is well constructed and installed at a recommended depth to mitigate any risk of fall or damage from vandalism.
- Installation depth has not exceeded the archaeological restricted level.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

- Garden will become an area of contemplation for the community in a picturesque location for healing, inspiration, remembrance and reflection.
- Community will have an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of a loved one through personalised pebble.

Financial implications

- Project was delivered significantly under budget. Monolith was £200, installation and rollout of the customised pebble process was achieved in-house against a budget of £1500.

Recommendations

This is a project update however any feedback is always appreciated.