

HALLS, CEMETERIES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 7 November 2022

Title: Children's Memorial Garden

Contact Officer: Project Officer - Nicky Cayley

Background

At the Halls, Cemeteries and Allotments Meeting on 17 January 2022, members discussed the idea for a Children's Memorial Garden: -

After discussion it was agreed that the garden be located at Windrush Cemetery with exact siting to be agreed. Members indicated that the garden should be relatively small, include benches for people to sit and reflect, have a willow arch entrance if possible and a planted area. It was agreed that this should be a Town Council project.

Recommended:

1. *That, the provision of a Children's Memorial Garden at Windrush Cemetery be supported; and*
2. *That, officers be requested to develop the scheme on the basis outlined at the meeting.*

Current Situation

The Committee considered suggestions at the last meeting of this committee and rejected an idea of a pond at Windrush Cemetery, citing concerns about safety and the pond leaking into the surrounding area. The Project Officer has therefore worked up an alternate design (rough sketch attached for members only).

The location remains as the one previously identified, although it may need a further grass cut at some point.

The proposal is to site the bench that is in stock under (or just in front of) a round arch made of black galvanised tubular steel (image attached). The classic extra arch with lattice infill is 2.7m wide, 2.8m height, and 61cm deep. The price is £494.17 excluding VAT with a £16.95 delivery charge.

As requested, the Project Officer has consulted with the Park Ranger who has suggested passionflower, jasmine, or clematis as suitable for the archway, and these are all excellent pollinators.

In place of the pond, the Cotswold stone that the Council has in stock could be used to form a small gravel filled circle where parents could place the engraved pebbles. Some weed suppressant material would be needed under the gravel to prevent weeds from growing through the gravel.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

The climbing plant would support biodiversity as a pollinator.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability. There are no risks associated with this project.

Financial implications

- The budget for the project is £1,500.
- The cost of this project is in terms of the Works Team's time to construct the gravelled area and refurbish the existing bench.
- There will also be the cost of the archway £494.17 excluding Vat plus £16.95 delivery charge.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and if they wish to go ahead with the proposal from the Project Officer.