

Agenda Item 13 - To receive a report and consider the provision and maintenance of Memorial Benches

Information:

Saltash Town Council receive several enquiries relating to Memorial Benches hence the reason the Committee are receiving this report.

There is available space for a further 21 benches at Churchtown Cemetery not including the 6 existing benches, 2 of which are composite benches.

Proposed locations marked in red below for Memorial Benches to be installed as and when requested:



Existing timber and metal benches:



Due to limited space at Churchtown Cemetery for Memorial bench allocation it has been identified to further consider the provision and maintenance of Memorial Benches for the foreseeable future.

The benches previously purchased are eco-friendly composite benches that require little maintenance. The cost to the Council is **£275 + vat** per bench, not inclusive of installation which may require a concrete plinth to level the ground in which the bench sits on (works to be undertaken in-house).

The estimated cost for labor and additional materials required for the installation of a bench is approximately **£240.00** per bench at a cost to the Town Council.

Example of existing composite bench in duck egg blue on a concrete plinth:



Research:

Cornwall Council confirmed that new benches are rarely installed due to available space and instead existing benches at the preferred location to the customer's request are offered.

The cost to the customer for a memorial bench includes either a replacement of the existing bench or refurbishment, installation of a plaque and maintenance twice a year for a ten-year lease period. If after 10 years, the customer no longer wishes to renew the lease the plaque is removed and returned to the customer.

Cornwall Council's standard fee for a Memorial Bench is £1,000.00 + vat plus an administration fee of 10% of the total fee charged.

Summary:

Limited space at Churchtown Cemetery for the Town Council to offer a memorial bench service to the community. A place for people to visit loved ones and reflect.

The cost for a bench and labor can vary due to not all installations having sufficient space for a concrete plinth.

Composition benches are durable, better for the environment, easy to keep in a good condition.

Cost to the Council:

- Eco-friendly bench at a cost to the Town Council of £275 + vat.
- Labor and additional materials cost to the Town Council of £240 + vat.

Cost to the Customer:

- Plaque cost to the customer £35.00
- Ten-year lease cost to the customer £300.00
- Installation of plaque £15.00

Options:

Therefore, the following options are put to Members:

OPTION 1:

The Council to purchase composite benches and install at the identified locations.

Available budgets include:

EMF Memorial Gardens 6073

Available Budget: £2004.00

OR

EMF Capital Works 6070

Available Budget: £7768.00

OPTION 2:

The Council to offer the purchase of a memorial plaque with inscription and installation, including maintenance, for a lease period of 10 years at a cost of £350.00 to the customer.

After the lease period if the customer does not wish to repurchase, the plaque will be removed and returned.

The four existing timber and metal framed benches (as pictured) to be replenished with composite benches subject to the Service Delivery Managers confirmation that the benches are no longer fit for purpose.

OPTION 3:

The Council recommend to the Joint Burial Board to offer a supply and fit and service to St Stephens Church at a cost of £515.00+VAT.

St Stephens would require to liaise with a family directly in regards to any memorial plaque and lease period.

END OF REPORT