

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DONATION OF MEMORIALS**

**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report requests the Committee to consider the introduction of new measures to support individuals or groups who wish to donate a memorial to Angus Council.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the introduction of a range of options whereby individuals or groups can donate memorials to Angus Council.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- 2.1 This report contributes to the following outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:

**PEOPLE**

- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and wellbeing

**PLACE**

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 A motion was brought before Angus Council on 20 June 2019 by Councillor Durno, which read as follows:

*This motion is to offer memorial alternatives to benches. Last year £9600 was spent on memorial benches costing £600-£1000 depending on the bench. We propose that the public should have the choice of a variety of memorials to donate on behalf of their loved one as an alternative to benches. We therefore ask that the Parks Department offers families the choice of different kinds of memorials.*

- 3.2 Council remitted the Director of Communities to bring forward a report to the Communities Committee outlining what action could be taken to offer individuals or groups a wider range of options when donating memorials.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Parks Service currently operates a scheme allowing the donation of memorial benches and trees to be placed at agreed locations within our parks and cemeteries. Under the terms of the scheme the donator agrees to cover all associated costs including the supply of a memorial plaque. The scheme has proved very successful and helped the section replace benches within our parks and cemeteries for which there is no other means of funding. The on-going maintenance costs to the service are kept to a minimum by restricting choice of benches to those of sustainable materials and construction and the choice of tree to those on an approved list.

Year	Donated Benches		Donated Trees	
	No.	Value	No.	Value
2017/18	11	£8,902.78	1	£289.50
2018/19	18	£12,514.36	5	£963.45
2019/20 (to date)	6	£4,952.73	0	£0

- 4.2 In addition the department actively encourages and supports organisations and community groups who wish to make a contribution towards their local community by fundraising or grant aid to buy new or replacement playground equipment. Current policy is to support these projects where no further financial burden is being placed on the council. Recent projects supported include the following:-

2018/19 Steele Park (Forfar) Play Area Improvements:

Removal of existing play area, Supply and installation of 8no new play units including safety surfacing and associated street furniture.

Glenview Community Group	£27,000.00
HRA Match Funding	£30,000.00
Developers Contribution	£28,900.00
Parks in-kind contribution (fees)	<u>£10,699.36</u>

Total £96,599.36

2018/19 Edzell Muir Outdoor Gym:

Supply and Installation of 7no outdoor fitness units including safety surfacing and signage, and 10 years maintenance costs.

EVIS	£28,016.66
Parks in-kind contribution (fees)	<u>£2,431.00</u>

Total £30,447.66

- 4.3 These procedures will continue unchanged as they support the parks section in providing much needed infrastructure within our parks, cemeteries and open spaces.

## 5. PROPOSALS

### 5.1 Introduce Standard Tree Donation Scheme

Create a new scheme for donated trees in addition to the above memorial tree scheme to help maintain the Council's tree population in Angus. Standard trees differ from memorial trees in that no memorial plaque is allowed reducing the overall cost to the donator. This scheme is designed to help the parks section replace mature trees felled or lost due to age, damage or disease and will help increase the Council's contribution towards offsetting our carbon dioxide emissions. There will be a minimum donation of one tree and overall cost will depend on the size and species of tree chosen. Tree planting season is between December and March and donations received between April and November will allow us to plant that season. Donations received between December and March will be held over to the following year's planting season.

### 5.2 Introduce Flowering Bulb Donation Scheme

The introduction of a new scheme to improve or create naturalised bulb planted areas in Council owned parks, woodlands and suitable open spaces. Contributions can be made towards providing bulbs to be planted by park's staff in specific areas as agreed by the service. There will be a minimum donation of 250 bulbs to ensure the scheme is sustainable. Planting season is between October and November. Payments received during the winter months will be held to the following year's planting season.

### 5.3 Introduce Parks Projects Donations Scheme

A list of suitable projects will be publicised on the Council website encouraging and supporting individuals or businesses to make a contribution towards planned environmental improvements. Donations can be made towards the overall cost of a project or where applicable a specific part or individual item. The type of project suitable may be the refurbishment of a park, outdoor space or playground. Levels of donation will vary according to the project, however every effort will be made to accommodate the smallest of donations.

5.4 In each of the proposed schemes, donations will be recognised and acknowledged in a manner appropriate to the contribution which could include a commemorative certificate or other form of recognition within the project itself such as a commemorative plaque or permanent signage. The wishes of those making anonymous donations would also be respected.

**6. RISKS**

There are no significant risks associated with this report.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no significant financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

**8. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**9. EQUALITIES**

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective.

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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