

MEMORIAL POLICY.

(This Policy was reviewed by the full Council at its AGM held on 14 May 2025, minute 20/25-26)

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council recognises the wish for memorials and will consider a memorial on land owned or managed by them. The Town Council will consider requests for memorials on an individual basis and retains the absolute right to refuse or limit the number of memorials.

OBJECTIVES:

This policy has been produced with the following guiding principles:

- To be respectful and sympathetic to those seeking to install a memorial;
- To establish responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of memorials;
- To ensure that memorials are not out of place in the area in which they are situated;
- The content of this policy may be revised/amended as necessary at the absolute discretion of the Town Council.

GENERAL:

- All applications for memorials must be made using the Memorial Application form;
- All memorials must be paid for by the applicant prior to purchase and installation by the Town Council. Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will inform the applicant of the price/cost on receipt of a completed application form;
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will attempt to accommodate the wishes of the applications but it may limit the number of memorials in a particular area;
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council accepts no responsibility if a memorial is damaged, vandalised or stolen;
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council reserves the right to remove memorials at any time;
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will only permit memorials to individuals who have lived in Swanscombe and Greenhithe and whose families' have given written consent (to be supplied by the applicant) or, in exceptional circumstances, a historic event. Applications for pets/animals will NOT be considered;
- Memorials will be limited to benches and trees. No additional mementos (vases, statues, flowers, wreaths, balloons or other ornamentation etc.), shall be permitted on or around the memorial. These will be removed without reference to the original applicant.

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MEMORIAL BENCHES:

- Benches must be of the type specified by Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council in order to be co-ordinated with any other benches already situated in the intended location or to fulfil health and safety or access requirements;
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will be responsible for all installation works;
- Memorial plaques fitted to benches will be supplied and fitted by Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council;
- A maximum of two memorial plaques per bench will be allowed;
- The inscription on the plaque must be agreed/approved with Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council (Town Clerk) and there will be a limit to the number of words (*a person's name, a suitable statement, single line and inoffensive text, text to run horizontally along the plaques widest point, dates if desired*);
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will maintain the bench within its maintenance programme and budget;
- The total cost of installation of a memorial bench will be dependent on the type of bench allowed and the fittings required. Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will purchase the bench, all materials and supply labour for installation and will be reimbursed by the applicant.

MEMORIAL TREES:

- Memorial plaques will NOT be permitted on or near trees. Existing plaques will remain;
- Trees will be chosen by Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council in discussion with the applicant to fit the planting scheme for the area. The applicant will be notified of the tree species to be planted;
- The planting of trees may not be possible in some areas;
- Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council will charge for the tree, stake, guard and planting labour. The tree will be maintained by Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council in line with its maintenance programme and budget.
- The applicant is to be responsible for the first 12 months maintenance of a memorial tree

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APPLICATION FOR A MEMORIAL.

Applicants **MUST** read the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council policy on memorials prior to making an application.

Please complete the form and return by post to Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council, Council Offices, The Grove, Swanscombe, Kent, DA10 0GA

Applicants Name:

Applicants telephone number:

Applicants email address:

Applicants home address:

Have you read our Memorial Policy :

Applicants signature:

Date of application:

REQUESTED MEMORIAL TYPE: Bench without plaque / Bench with plaque / Tree

DETAILS OF MEMORIAL (e.g. plaque inscription):
Please give details below.