

Memorial Benches

Terms & Conditions

1. Only sites with the capacity for additional benches will be considered.
2. Capacity decisions will be at the discretion of the council.
3. Only suitable locations where people are likely to make good use of the proposed bench will be considered. These will be areas which lack any seating nearby, or are at a likely stopping point, such as a particular view or rest point on a path. In addition, the location will be chosen to minimise future maintenance and vandalism. Remote locations with poor access for maintenance and limited potential users will not be considered.
4. The purpose of memorial benches will generally be to commemorate the lives of people or pets. Tributes to clubs, groups, associations, events etc. will be considered on a case by case basis and will be approved at the discretion of the council.
5. A limited selection of suitable low maintenance standard designs will be available at a range of costs, the choice of bench being dependent on the location. Range of benches with associated prices are listed on www.ashford.gov.uk/outdoor-spaces/memorial-benches/.
6. Lease of a memorial bench will be for the expected life period of the bench only, after which time it will be removed. The cost will include the bench, plaque, inscription, installation and surfacing. As the benches should require minimal maintenance, there will be no additional cost for this. The cost and life expectancy of the bench will depend on the type of bench and its location. Any replacement will be treated in the same way as a new memorial bench.
7. To ensure installation is undertaken safely and to the required standards, the council will provide and install the memorial bench with plaque and surfacing in all cases.
8. The council's standards of maintenance will be accepted as keeping the bench fit for purpose. This will involve occasionally removing graffiti and repairing minor faults. Maintenance will not include regular painting, as in the long term this proves more costly than replacing the bench when it has reached the end of its natural life. The range of new benches has been chosen for durability without the need for regular painting or treatment.
9. The lessee must not carry out any maintenance to a bench during the period of lease, this includes any painting or varnishing. Additionally, no tributes may be attached to, laid on or put beside benches.
10. The council reserves the right to remove any bench which has been installed prior to this policy being adopted which has fallen into disrepair through age or vandalism. Subject to suitability of location, these benches may be replaced with plain benches without a plaque.
11. A standard written letter of agreement will be sent by the council to the customer to ensure all terms and conditions are clearly understood prior to

commencement of the lease. The form will be returned to the council with payment in advance of the memorial bench being installed.