

MEMORIAL BENCH POLICY ON EWELME PARISH COUNCIL

1. Benches dedicated to departed loved ones can be a gentle and appropriate reminder and a useful contribution to public enjoyment of communal spaces. However, if not tastefully and sympathetically designed and positioned, carefully maintained, or if too many are located around a popular spot, they can be unsightly. This has not happened in Ewelme, but EPC consider that a carefully considered policy for siting and managing of privately-funded memorial benches is appropriate in order that problems do not arise in the future.
2. The land to which this policy applies is all land owned by or controlled by EPC; this includes Cow Common, the Recreation Ground, paths and road verges.
3. In general, EPC is not against the installation of memorial benches on communal spaces. However, in order to regulate the numbers, design and maintenance of such benches, written approval of the EPC will be required for before installation is undertaken. Application should be made in writing via the Parish Clerk, for consideration by the Council.
4. At present there is capacity to absorb a limited number of additional benches. If at any time this ceases to be the case, EPC may refuse to allow any further benches for the time being.
5. Only a single bench will be agreed for each person to be commemorated.
6. Suggestions for location will be considered but the final decision on positioning will be decided by EPC.
7. Design and construction materials to be approved by EPC.
8. Wording of dedication plaques to be agreed with EPC. Anything inappropriate, defamatory or offensive will not be approved.
9. No commemorative objects, such as flowers or teddies, to be fixed to the bench at the time of installation or subsequently.
10. Subsequent maintenance of the bench will remain the responsibility of the original donor or his successor; EPC to be kept informed of the responsible person and their contact details. In the event of the bench not being maintained, or it becomes unsafe, the responsible person will be requested to repair or remove the bench. If they fail to do so, EPC reserves the right to remove and dispose of it.
11. EPC may update or amend this policy without further notice.