

# Update on Roadside Memorials in the Borough

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## REASON FOR ITEM

At the request of the Chairman, this item provides information on the Council's current approach to roadside memorials in the Borough and the related guidance document.

## OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- To seek clarification from officers on any of the information in this report.
- To note the update on roadside memorials and the accompanying guidance document.

## INFORMATION

Reports of unsightly memorials (or those that are tended for an excessive period of time) are referred to the Residents Services Investigations Team which deals with street environment issues. Each case is assessed on its merits, and appropriate liaison takes place with local residents as to their feelings about the memorial which can range from sympathy with the bereaved family to annoyance with its presence as a reminder of a tragedy and / or as an untidy nuisance. Where appropriate, the family are contacted to discuss their plans, although, in many cases, the identity of the bereaved family is not known. However, in some cases, the police traffic division's family liaison officer will be able to make contact with the bereaved family on the Council's behalf.

Families are always encouraged to regard roadside memorial not as permanent but as temporary tributes to remain in place and be tended for a reasonable period as part of the grieving process. The aim is to ensure that, so long as a memorial does not give rise to any hazard or nuisance, it can be allowed to remain for a period of 13 months (to allow the marking of the first anniversary of the accident), after which time Council officers can contact the relatives or friends of the bereaved and discuss the removal of the items.

Where a memorial provides additional distress to members of the public, a more robust approach may be adopted.