

Roadside Memorials

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee requested an update on the new Roadside Memorial Policy at its meeting on 25 February 2015.

INFORMATION

1. The updated Roadside Memorials Policy was agreed by The Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling on 27 February 2015. The policy is appended to this report.
2. Nigel Dicker has advised that the Council is in touch with the families connected to the memorials currently in situ, and that progress in implementing the new policy has been good. Each situation is different, however, and requires a different approach, within the policy framework.
3. Noting the committee's request of 25 February 2015, officers advise that most contact about Roadside Memorials is through meetings and telephone calls, rather than letters, and so no template letter to grieving families has been produced. Further to the Committee's recommendation of 26 March 2014, consideration was given to including a paragraph on Roadside Memorials in the funeral procedures booklet. It is intended to include the following text in the new booklet, which is still being designed:

'Roadside Memorials

Roadside memorials can be difficult to manage. There are many ways to permanently memorialise an individual in a dignified manner, without the use of a roadside memorial, and the Council offers a range of options to residents through Breakspear Crematorium, which has extensive grounds and gardens of remembrance. Options include memorial rosebushes with name plaques, benches and ornamental shrubs and trees. Memorials in the grounds of the Crematorium are easier to look after and visit, and are in a more pleasant environment that allows quiet reflection and contemplation.

However, the Council accepts that there may be a need to temporarily acknowledge a sudden death caused by a traffic accident, by marking an area of highway verge with an informal memorial, e.g flowers, small decorative items, or a plaque placed on highway verge. If Residents do intend to do a roadside tribute then they should look at the Council's detailed guidance on '*Roadside memorials & other memorials on Council Controlled land*'. This guidance is on the Council's website. For all other memorials please contact Breakspear Crematorium directly.'