

ROADSIDE MEMORIAL GUIDANCE

Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel – 04 November 2013



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

1. Purpose of the report:

To provide Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel with an update on the city Council's view on roadside memorials and other memorialisation that occurs mainly on Council controlled land, following sudden accidental road deaths. It provides guidance to the bereaved, nearby residents, Police, elected members and Council officers.

2. Background:

Recent high profile roadside memorials have highlighted that Plymouth City Council needs to have a coordinated, consistent, robust but sensitive approach in dealing with memorials of this nature. 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 Weston Mill and Efford Crematorium, which have extensive grounds and gardens of remembrance. 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.

Plymouth City Council officers have met with representatives of the policing team and highways contactor AMEY to ensure that there is a consistent message given to all parties when dealing with roadside memorials.

3. Implementation

The guidance is not meant to bring about the immediate removal of small temporary memorials that cause no distraction, hazard or distress to others, but to control the establishment of large memorials that could present such difficulties for other road users.

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 arrange for any items that are still wanted to be temporarily stored at Weston Mill / Efford Crematorium, or returned.

The guidance also offers alternative longer term memorials to bereaved families through the Green Gifts programme such as Bulb planting and tree planting. These longer term memorials require the proposed memorial to be vetted and sanctioned by Plymouth City Council.