

Parks and Open Spaces Committee

31st July 2023

Memorial Benches

Currently the Council asks for a donation towards the cost of the bench £357.00 (no VAT is charged as it is considered a donation).

The cost to the Council is £371.30 plus installation labour (Parks Officer time) of approximately £116, and materials of approximately £50, total costs £537.30.

In comparison:

Plymouth City Council charge £625 plus VAT (£750) for adding a plaque to an existing bench for a 5 year period.

£1458.53 plus VAT (£1750) for a new bench and choice of location with a plaque for a 5 year period.

£345.83 plus VAT (£415) for a renewal for a further 5 year period.

South Hams District Council charge £1400 plus VAT (£1680) for a 10 year sponsorship scheme including the bench and plaque.

£560 plus VAT (£672) for a renewal for a further 10 years.

We have received several requests for benches to be placed in the Cemetery and other locations around the Council's estate.

Officers will find suitable sites for prospective sponsors to choose from.

Members are requested to consider setting a new price for a bench, taking into consideration the previous approach of only asking for a donation towards the bench with the Council covering the installation costs.

It is **recommended** that the price be set at a minimum of £750 plus VAT (£900) which should cover the initial costs and for any maintenance over a ten year period.

Annually the actual costs may increase and so it is **recommended** that Officers increase the cost to the sponsor by the same percentage as any rise in costs. For example, if the costs of £537.30 rise by 5% to £564.17, then the £750+VAT charge is also increased by 5% to £787.50.

It is also **recommended** that if a bench be damaged or vandalised, the Council would repair or replace at no extra cost to the sponsor during the ten year sponsorship period.

Pauline Cleal
Senior Finance Officer

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk