

Bredgar Parish Council

The Parish Council expects a continuing demand for memorial benches into the foreseeable future. To be fair to all those in the future who may wish to erect a memorial bench for a loved one, and to preserve the character of the village, the following policy will apply to all applications for memorial benches.

Policy for Memorial Benches in Bredgar

- All applications to erect a memorial bench in Bredgar will be subject to consultation with the Parish Council and will require majority approval. The Parish Council has the final decision on all aspects of design and location.

- All benches must follow the specifications set out below:
 - o The bench should be made of hardwood, for example oak or teak.
 - o The bench should be of traditional design, with slatted back and seat and sturdy arms
 - o The memorial can be in the form a plaque or an inscription carved into the top rail, but in either case must be discreet

- All applications must be in writing and signed by the applicant. The application should include:
 - o The preferred location
 - o Detailed specification of the bench
 - o Detailed specification of the inscription or plaque

- Once approved, the applicant will be responsible for the supply and erection of the bench.

- The bench must be firmly secured in the chosen location. In the case of a bench sited on grass or soft ground it must be fixed to a concrete base. In the case of a bench sited on decking it must be firmly fixed to the timber.
- The bench, once erected, remains the property of the applicant. As the owner of the bench, the successful applicant is responsible for its maintenance.
- Owners of memorial benches should take especial care to ensure that maintenance can be continued for the expected lifetime of the bench.
- In the event that the bench is damaged, the Parish Council takes no responsibility, and expects the owner to effect whatever repairs necessary. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any bench that is in a state of disrepair or in their view is a risk to health and safety.
- In the event that the bench is stolen, the Parish Council shall not be responsible for providing a replacement.
- The owner may supply a replacement bench in the same location at the end of the life of the bench. However, this is granted as a courtesy by the Parish Council and not a right, and any changes in the new bench will have to be approved.