



14 Fir Tree Walk
Lowton
Cheshire
WA3 2NW
07832 517213

FTAO: The Lady Mayor & Battle Town Council

Dear Madam,

My name is Dan Hill and I am Director of Daddys With Angels, a global bereavement support organisation supporting bereaved families following the passing of a child or children at any age or gestation and via any cause. Currently we support 4000 families and have a global following in excess of 10000.

It has been brought to my attention that your council have recently imposed a limit on the adornment of children's graves to two small trinkets and have done so without prior consultation with the parents and other churchyard users. My understanding is that this has been enforced to ensure that walkers may enjoy a peaceful visit to the area.

If I may I would like to tell you a little about my journey and hopefully ask you kindly to retract this enforcement.

I am the very proud father of seventeen children, twelve of them are dead..... I say this not to shock you or feel any pity, I am blessed with five beautiful living children, however my losses have shaped every aspect of my life moving forward.

When a parent loses a child at any age it is important that we acknowledge that child and find a way to allow that child to remain a hugely important part of our lives. Failing to do so can impact severely on the healing process and can severely affect the parents and siblings of the child which can manifest itself as depression, anxiety and a feeling of failing that child however irrational that may be.

In the case of Natalie Reeves, who has a grave in your churchyard, she tends to her child's grave daily and has done for two years. The grave itself is in good repair and in keeping with what can easily be expected in other churchyards around the country.

The provision of these small gifts to a deceased child is a parents way of keeping their child's memory alive and is essential for, in this case the mum, to feel they are doing 'something' for her baby.

I ask a very simple question. Please place yourself in her position, if this was your child, grandchild, niece or nephew wouldn't you want to grieve for them in a way that helps you? This heavy handed dictating of what you unilaterally have imposed is damaging, not only to Natalie and her family, but also to every bereaved parent around the country. Nobody speaks of child loss for one reason..... it's frightening!!! These parents live every adults worst nightmare every single day. There is no relief from it, there is no avoiding it. Our children

Daddys With Angels is a global charity registered within England and Wales with subsidiaries within Scotland, Europe, USA and Australasia

Winners of two Support Organisation Of The Year Awards
Dan Hill has been awarded Inspirational Father Of The Year



are dead and all they ask is that they are allowed to grieve in the way that helps them the most.

I have discussed this subject at great length this weekend with our support groups and the depth of feeling across the board is palpable. They are understandably angry at the treatment of one of our members and have asked unanimously that I write to you personally and that I pass on their support for Natalie and all other future bereaved parents in your parish to be able to gift their child small trinkets. As previously stated Natalie tends to the grave daily and if it is a case of the groundsperson being able to tend around the plot I am sure she will move the items prior to cutting and replace them afterwards. If it is seen as a H&S issue then I am sorry but nobody should be walking on a child's grave at any time and also you have allowed kerbstones on the other graves in your area.

I look forward to your reply and may I say that normally I am a huge fan of town councils and the vital work you all do for your communities. I ask that you take a second look at your enforcement, talk to Natalie and help her with her grief rather than add to it. It's simply the right thing to do.

For The Little Angels

Dan

Charity Director
Daddys With Angels

Daddys With Angels is a global charity registered within England and Wales with subsidiaries within Scotland, Europe, USA and Australasia
Winners of two Support Organisation Of The Year Awards
Dan Hill has been awarded Inspirational Father Of The Year