

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	6 th October 2026
Report Title	Memorial Tree Planting Request
Agenda Reference	15
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager Jason Watts, Parks & Open Spaces Manager

Purpose of Report/ Recommendations

To inform the Committee of a request received from a member of the public for a memorial tree to be planted within the Parish, and to seek the Committee's views on whether, and how, this request could be accommodated.

Background

A request has been received from a resident, made on behalf of a friend who lives in Manchester. The friend's son was born in Haydon Wick and grew up in the area before sadly passing away recently in his thirties.

The resident explained that she believed planting a tree locally would be a comfort to her friend, knowing that a tree grows in the Parish in her son's memory. The resident has asked that a tree be planted somewhere in the Haydon Wick area; she has not specified a species and has not requested a memorial plaque.

The resident has been informed that the request would be brought to this Committee for consideration.

There was no mention of any funding, and given that the friend lives in Manchester there is likely to be no ongoing maintenance through voluntary contributions.

Matters for the Committee to Consider

Before a response can be given to the resident, the Committee is asked to consider the following:

- **Replacement vs. new planting:** Whether this request could be met through the Council's existing tree replacement programme, or whether it would need to be treated as an additional, new planting.
- **Suitable location:** Whether there is a suitable site within the Parish's open spaces that could accommodate an additional tree, taking into account existing planting, underground services, sightlines and long-term growth.
- **Cost:** The likely cost of the tree itself, planting, staking/guarding and any ground preparation, and whether this would be met from existing budgets or would require separate provision.
- **Ongoing maintenance:** The maintenance a young tree requires during its establishment period (e.g. watering, formative pruning, weed suppression, guard removal), and who would be responsible for this.
- **Policy considerations:** Whether the Council wishes to establish, or already has, a policy for memorial trees, to ensure consistency should similar requests be received in future.

**Site and Cost Information**

The Council's most recent tree survey has identified two trees at Lyddon Way that require felling. It has been suggested that one of these could be replaced with a tree planted in memory of the resident's friend's son, which would address the request without the need to identify an entirely new planting location.

This location is close to an existing planter which is already watered by the Council each Summer, meaning the additional maintenance required to establish a young tree at this site would be minimal. On this basis, the ongoing maintenance cost is estimated at approximately £200.00 per year. The cost of the tree itself, and of planting and staking/guarding it, has not yet been costed.