

Policy for trees and benches on Dedham Parish Council (DPC) land.

DPC is not a significant landowner in the Parish but it does own the Football Field and its perimeters within which are situated the children's playground, the Tennis Courts and Pavilion. The DPC also own The Drift. Within these areas we already have four memorial trees and a number of benches.

Whilst we recognise the wishes of local residents and others to offer further donations of both benches and trees, the availability of space means that we have limited potential to accommodate new donations.

A quick review of our assets in this regard indicates that we could possibly accommodate a further four benches either alongside The Drift or adjacent to the children's playground and possibly no more than another couple of trees.

Given this position it has been agreed that we need to formulate criteria to help us assess both existing and any new requests received to sponsor both benches and trees.

Proposed criteria is as follows:

Applications for memorial trees and or benches on DPC land will only be considered on behalf of either past or present residents of the Parish or those who have had a close association with the village for a number of years.

In addition, applicants should be expected to demonstrate a significant contribution from the nominated person to the life and community of Dedham.

In respect of memorial benches, the design and construct of the bench shall conform to that required by the Parish Council. who will then accept responsibility for any necessary repair or maintenance.

In respect of memorial trees, the type and location of the proposed tree and any necessary support and/or protection shall also be approved by the Parish Council. Any donor wishing to plant a memorial tree shall also be required to ensure (via an agreed arrangement with DPC) the watering of the new tree for a couple of years post its planting during which all trees are susceptible to drought.