POLICY FOR BENCHES AND SEATS

INTRODUCTION
Lytchett Matravers Parish Council will consider requests for benches to be installed on any public space owned by the Council, including Row Park Cemetery.

These facilities will be enjoyed by a wide range of people and the Council will ensure that they are managed and regulated for the mutual benefit of all.

OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY
This policy has been produced with the following guiding principles:

- To be respectful, sympathetic and easily understood by residents / members of the community.
- To balance the sometimes-contrasting needs of a variety of facility users;
- To maintain and enhance the high-quality appearance of each site and not detract from their prime purposes.
- To clearly establish the responsibility for maintenance, repair and replacement of benches; and
- To achieve full cost recovery by Lytchett Matravers Parish Council for any benches provided

DONATED BENCHES
Donated benches will be positioned to maximise the benefit and development of the site and the number of benches in a particular area will be limited. However, the Council will attempt to accommodate the wishes of the applicants wherever possible.

In order to maintain consistency of appearance, quality and control over location, all benches will be specified, ordered and installed by Lytchett Matravers Parish Council. The total cost of the installation of a donated bench (including any memorial plaque) will be dependent on style appropriate for the site as determined by the Parish Council and will be based on cost price plus 10% to cover materials and labour and ongoing maintenance.

The Council will maintain the bench. However, no replacement liability will be accepted at the end of the useful life of the bench or if it is damaged through vandalism.

Payment should be received prior to completion of the installation. The wording on any inscription must be agreed by the Council in advance of installation of the bench.

The Council reserves the right to remove any memorial bench that has been damaged and that in the view of the Council is beyond economical repair.

If a bench that is to be removed has been donated, the Council will contact the donor at the last known address as a courtesy and to give the option to fund a replacement.

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