

APPENDIX 1

ROADSIDE MEMORIALS POLICY – 2019 – SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

- 1.1 Visits by bereaved relatives and friends to the scene of a fatal accident are sometimes part of the grieving process and it is common for tributes to be placed on the highway in memory of loved ones.
- 1.2 Arguments can be made both for and against the impact of roadside memorials in either heightening awareness of potential danger at an accident site or creating a dangerous distraction. Those who place memorials at the roadside may be putting themselves in danger.
- 1.3 When roadside tributes deteriorate, or remain in situ for many months, nearby residents can become distressed both at their appearance and at the daily reminder of the accident. This causes conflict and the Council has a responsibility to balance sensitivity with safety and community harmony, to achieve the best possible outcome for all.
- 1.4 Floral tributes placed on the highway may be displayed for up to six weeks following a fatality, or until two weeks after a funeral has taken place (in the circumstances where a funeral is delayed). After this time the Council requests that all memorials be removed or will assist by arranging for their removal.
- 1.5 Other non permanent tributes placed on the highway, such as soft toys, lanterns and photographs will also be left for the same period unless they pose a risk to road users or could damage the environment in which case the Council will remove them.
- 1.6 The Council strongly discourages the placing of any items where to do so would put an individual in any danger, for example alongside a high speed road or on a roundabout with multiple lanes of traffic. We reserve the right to remove any tribute if either the object or the location poses a risk of injury to road users.
- 1.7 Memorials representing any faith will be treated in line with the policy. The Council reserves the right to remove memorials that could be perceived as offensive to groups or individuals.
- 1.8 Permanent roadside memorials (any object which is affixed to the highway) are unfortunately not permitted and will be removed.
- 1.9 The Council reserves the right to act on any police advice or instruction regarding the removal of specific memorials.
- 1.10 Where possible the family of the deceased will be notified in advance of the removal of the memorial via the police family liaison officer. Where memorials are removed for the first time, the non-perishable items will be stored securely at Central Depot, Moat Lane Solihull B91 2LW for a period of 6 weeks. Anyone wishing to collect items should contact the Bereavement Services Team on 0121 709 7009 to make an appointment.

- 1.11 If, after the first removal, the memorial is subsequently replaced at the roadside, it will not be possible to give further notification of removal or to store any items. These will be disposed of appropriately.
- 1.12 Additional tributes placed later to mark significant anniversaries are unfortunately not permitted, however there are a wide range of memorial options to remember loved ones at Solihull Cemeteries. Information can be found at www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Births-deaths-marriages/Deaths/memorialoptions
- 1.13 The Council has provided memorials within both Robin Hood and Woodlands cemeteries, dedicated to those who have lost their lives on the roads.