

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL MEMORIAL BENCH WORKING GROUP

Notes from Second Zoom Meeting held on 19/11/2020.

Attendees:- Cllr Phil Griffiths (Team Lead), Vivien Shaw – Frodsham WI, Cllr Ryan McKeown, Cllr Lucy Sumner, Cllr Bernie Wade

Background.

The Working Party was formed after a meeting of Frodsham Town Council Policy (FTC) Process and Revenue (PP&R) Committee which had received a request for a Memorial Bench to be sited in memory of a recently deceased youngster. Although the Council is sympathetic to the request there are currently no suitable sites available. Moreover, FTC has a Policy Document that states that no more benches can be accommodated.

An idea was put forward that FTC should have one bench for quiet contemplation, prayer etc of those who had lost loved ones and that we should possibly investigate a suitable plinth, wall for the siting of small memorial plaques. Cllr Griffiths agreed to lead a Working Party to investigate options and report back to FTC.

Potential Sites

Any chosen site should be Central, Easily Accessible, Peaceful but not too isolated and finally parking should be readily available. Three potential sites have been identified :-

- Manley Road Copse. Although parking is difficult there is sufficient parking available down the road by the Scout Hut.
- Marshlands
- Top of Frodsham Hill. Although the lower part of the cemetery is full of with benches and there are none at the top.

All members of the Working Party visited as many of the above sites as possible and reported back. After some discussion it was decided the Marchlands although central feels very isolated, possibly unsafe and if we were to place a bench here it could encourage antisocial behaviour.

It was felt that any area around the top of Frodsham Hill has strong associations with the War Memorial and War dead whereas we are trying to cater for different groups. It is also quite isolated.

Manley Road Copse seems to tick all of the boxes. A vote was taken and it was unanimously decided to advocate that Manley Road Copse be proposed as the optimum site to Frodsham Town Council.

Site Clearance and Maintenance

Currently Manley Road Copse is in need of some TLC. Various options were discussed such as asking Hob Hey Wood Friends if they would be interested in supporting the site if sufficient funding were made available. Contracting a local landscaping company to clean up and maintain the site. There is a strong drive to ensure support and maintenance of the site is provided locally in order to support our local economy in these trying time rather than from external contractors.

Construction and participation of other Focus Groups, Schools.

Now that a suitable site has been identified the it is anticipated that local schools and other groups could be contacted to see if they are interested in the design and construction aspects. In particular we'd like to see buy in from our own teenagers so this could be n ideal project for Helsby High School pupils.

Funding.

It is anticipated that costs for this Project will be met by FTC, however approaches will be made to other bodies (English Heritage, CWaC, Round Table, Rotary Club) with a view to Grant procurement.