

A Policy for Memorials in the Pentland Hills Regional Park

Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee

24th September 2010

Purpose of report

- 1 To ask the Joint Committee to approve a policy for new memorials on local authority owned land within the Regional Park.

Main report

- 2 The Regional Park regularly receives requests from people wishing to provide some form of memorial. Such requests are usually made by close family of deceased relatives who felt a close affinity with the Pentland Hills.
- 3 Currently, such requests are managed on a 'case by case' basis. Staff will discuss and agree a form of memorial that is considered appropriate and sympathetic to the character of the area.
- 4 The majority of requests to date have resulted in the majority of requests being accommodated while providing some form of environmental or amenity benefit.
- 5 Memorials can however be regarded as intrusive, particularly in public open space. Complaints received from visitors about a recently erected memorial within Bonaly County Park highlighted this concern.
- 6 A policy is now therefore proposed to provide a policy basis on which to respond to requests. The scope of the policy does not extend to private land within the Regional Park.
- 7 The key features of the proposed policy are:
 - there will be a presumption against the installation of items which serve solely a memorial function (stones, plaques, panels or other purely memorial structures);
 - constructions which require planning permission will not normally be supported unless they meet operational need;

- items of access infrastructure or countryside furniture for which there is an existing requirement, and which would enhance public enjoyment of the hills will be considered. This includes, but may not be exclusively limited to seats, benches, gates, stiles; paths and dry stone walls;
 - dedications on such items should be discreet;
 - neither the Regional Park Service nor Councils guarantee to maintain or replace the item if damaged or destroyed; and
 - the general donations scheme for the Regional Park will be promoted as an alternative to a memorial item. Donations could be attributed to a specific project within the Pentland Hills.
- 8 Members of the public are entitled to enter into arrangements with private landowners for the construction of memorials. In such circumstances the Regional Park will offer advice.
- 9 This policy has been drafted following discussion of the issue at the Regional Park Advisory Group on 11th June 2010.

Financial Implications

- 10 There are no financial implications.

Environmental Impact

- 11 The draft policy is intended to ensure that memorials improve environmental quality or amenity of the Regional Park and do not intrude on the enjoyment of public open space.

Recommendations

- 12 It is recommended that the Joint Committee approves the proposed policy for memorials on local authority owned land within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.



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Parks & Greenspace Manager

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Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to the following National Outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.2 We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.6 We live longer, healthier lives.10 We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.11 We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.12 We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations13 We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.14 We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and Production.15 Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.
Background Papers	None