

# TINTWISTLE PARISH COUNCIL

**14 JULY 2025**

**AUTHOR:** Cllr Marianne Stevenson

**SUBJECT:** Sexton Street Memorial Garden

**PURPOSE:** To advise that the location of the Memorial Garden needs to be changed and therefore an amended specification sent to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) who has granted funding

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That Council approves the plan for a change of location and that the specification for DWT is amended accordingly

## 1. Background

At the Tintwistle Parish Council (TPC) meeting on 19 February 2024 it was agreed to develop a Sexton Street Memorial Garden. A grant application to DWT in December 2024 for £3,000.00 was successful. The area that had been selected was beside the tennis court adjacent to the border fence. Since then quotes have been sought from gardening companies for the project. This included:

- A wildflower meadow and a selection of native trees and hedging
- A range of spring bulbs
- A low drystone wall and gateway
- New wildlife pathways in and out of the area
- A woodpile for wildlife
- A bug hotel
- A short pathway from the main lane to the area
- A bench
- A noticeboard (TPC to provide)

A local gardening company has examined the area selected and has advised that it may not be best suited to the planting requirements.

On 1 July the Clerk and Cllr Stevenson surveyed the Sexton Street field for an alternative site. It is recommended that the area around the current wooden bench would be suitable for the following reasons:

It maintains a view over the valley; there is already a bench; there is a secluded area for contemplation; there is room to plant at least 6 small trees; the ground is more suitable for planting; the residents of the School House are happy with the idea; there is no need to create any fencing, walling or pathways to the area.

The change would require going back to DWT to seek approval for the changes and amending the original specification for the work. To comply with the grant requirements the work needs to be completed by December 2025.

## 2. Options for Council

- i. Approve the proposals
- ii. Recommend any changes to the proposals
- iii. Reject the proposals with the implication that the Parish Council renegades on its commitments recorded in newsletters, Council minutes and does not comply with the DWT grant

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### 3. Reason for Recommendation

To ensure a memorial garden is created that both meets the original criteria for the project but is also practicable.

### 4. Expected Benefits

The Parish of Tintwistle and Crowden will benefit in the following ways:

- Residents will still have a tranquil area, overlooking the west of the Longdendale Valley, where trees can be planted in commemoration of a loved one and they can sit on a bench in the peace of the area
- The area is safer in that it is not completely hidden from sight
- The ongoing management of the garden is more feasible
- An area of the Sexton Street field becomes more diverse in its plant and wildlife

### 5. Implications

5.1 **Legal** - N/A

5.2 **Risks** – Some ongoing tree management may be necessary

5.3 **Financial** – If the funding is not honoured by DWT the Council will need to secure funding from elsewhere for the project

5.4 **Timescales** – July 2025 – Dec 2025

5.5 **Stakeholders** – Friends of Sexton Street Memorial Garden, residents of Tintwistle and Woodhead, neighbouring residents

5.6 **Contracts** – Local garden company/professionals for the clearing and planting

5.7 **Crime and Disorder**- Low level vandalism could be an issue

5.8 **Biodiversity** – Central to the proposals

5.9 **Data Privacy Impact** – N/A

5.10 **Equality and Diversity** – Friends of Sexton Street Memorial Garden group open to all sectors of the community

5.11 **Tackling Climate Change**- Central to the plan