

Friends of Milngavie Reservoir (FoMR)

Position Paper – Memorial benches

Background:

The Reservoirs have a number of memorial benches which have been erected by families and friends in memory of their departed loved ones. Until now, these have been installed on an unregulated basis with donors paying the costs of supply and installation following permission from Scottish Water.

Some of the early wooden ones are in a state of disrepair and are in need of replacement. In addition, there are new requests being made to install new benches so it is felt there should be clear guidelines on what type of bench is acceptable and where they should be placed.

FoMR consider new benches should be made of either steel or recycled composite material for durability and better resistance to vandalism and should have a surface that does not encourage pooling of water droplets. They should be black, possibly with gold highlights, to mirror the newly-replaced litter bins, FoMR noticeboard and the anticipated interpretive boards

Again for security against vandalism, the legs of the benches should be fixed to a base with concrete or heavy duty bolts and not free-standing. Unfortunately this may increase the cost of installation but will avoid the cost of future repairs.

If existing wooden benches which have deteriorated are to be replaced, it should be with the steel or composite ones as described earlier.

Benches should be spaced out around the reservoir at suitable intervals to avoid too many in one location and to provide suitable resting points.

FoMR appreciate that this is a sensitive area which must be treated with respect but if clear guidelines are in place it should lead to a situation which will be acceptable to all.

Conclusion:

FoMR is of the view that Scottish Water should progress with a programme of work to replace memorial benches over time to enhance the visitor experience which includes the following actions:

- To draw up a sample illustration of an example of an acceptable bench style and design for approval.
- To compile a list of acceptable suppliers.
- To define precise suitable locations for future benches, taking account of the visual impact, existing benches and the requirement for suitable resting places.
- To produce a Help guide of how to go about erecting a memorial bench with details of what is acceptable and how to get approval.

Prepared: 11 February 2021

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