

TANDLE HILL 'LIFE FOR A LIFE' AND ROTARY CLUB MEMORIAL WOODLAND

REPORT TO ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for the creation of a new 'Life for a Life' memorial woodland and garden on land at Tandle Hill Country Park.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The creation of a 'Life for a Life' memorial woodland at Tandle Hill Country Park would be complementary to existing memorial woodland initiatives within the Borough, supporting local charities and ultimately producing an attractive feature that will be visible from the air.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That approval is given for the establishment of a 'Life for a Life' memorial woodland and garden at Tandle Hill Country Park.

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4.0 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The 'Life for a Life' organisation is a charity with the aim of providing beautiful long-term woodlands and gardens of remembrance, with all the money raised going to charity.
- 4.2 There are already three such memorial woodland initiatives operating within the Borough: on land at Strinesdale and Dovestones, and at Dr. Kershaw's Hospice, Royton.
- 4.3 For a relatively modest fee, people can have a tree planted in memory of a departed loved one. Each tree has its own plaque within its own individual plot, and the initiative guarantees the maintenance of the tree (and replacement if necessary) for a period of 20 years after the initial planting.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Rotary International (Great Britain) supports the objectives of the 'Life for a Life' project and also supports a range of local charities. Since the organisation celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2003, it wishes to establish a permanent feature to mark the event whilst at the same time supporting the 'Life for a Life' project.
- 5.2 Rotary International would like to fund a new 'Life for a Life' memorial woodland and garden on Council managed land at Tandle Hill Country Park. The central feature of the project would be the creation of the Rotary wheel logo using mixed shrubs, and gravel pathways, surrounded by informal woodland. This feature will then be visible from the air as planes fly along nearby flight paths into Manchester International Airport.
- 5.3 Council Officers from both the Countryside and Landscape Design and Development Services would oversee the design and implementation of the project, to ensure good ecological practice and positive environmental impact.

5.4 The only costs to the Council will be in a small amount of staff time overseeing the project. All material and labour costs will be met by the 'Life for a Life' project and other monies raised by the Rotary Club. On-going maintenance of the completed memorial woodland will be resourced by the 'Life for a Life' project under the guidance of Countryside Service's staff.

6.0 Environmental Implications

6.1 Tree planting of native species would be in accordance with Oldham's Woodland Strategy.

6.2 The provision of this form of sustainable memorial to departed members of the community will to a degree reduce pressure on local cemeteries.

6.3 Although visible from the air, the intention is that ultimately, as the woodland matures, there would be minimal visual impact from ground level.

7.0 COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The project will involve working with individuals, schools and local charitable organisations, bringing people together to improve and support their local communities. The outcome of the project will be a lasting reminder of the contribution of individuals to both the family and the community as a whole.

8.0 TREASURER'S COMMENTS

8.1 As Rotary International would fund the proposals in this report, and the staff time needed to be spent overseeing the project would not result in any additional payment being made, the recommendations contained in this report would not have any impact on the Councils budget.

The following is a list of the background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by that Act.

Files contained at Strinesdale Depot by the Countryside Service

Information relating to this project can be viewed by contacting Mike Street, Level 2, Metropolitan House, Hobson Street, Oldham : Tel No 0161 911 3455

Title	TANGLE HILL 'LIFE FOR A LIFE' AND ROTARY CLUB MEMORIAL WOODLAND	
Signed	_____	Dated
	Executive Member Culture, Leisure and Tourism	_____
Signed	_____	Dated
	Acting Executive Director, Environmental Services	_____