

To consider an alternative memorial Bench installation on the MPF

Briefing Note

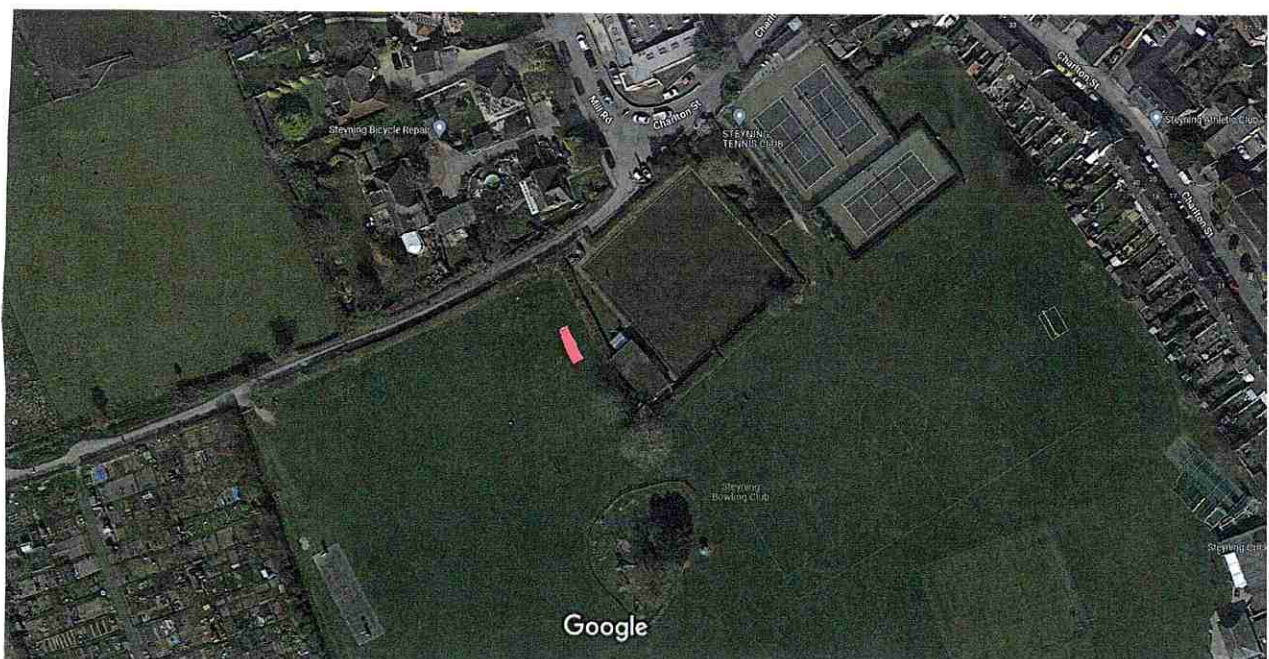
At the last Community Committee meeting the following minute was recorded:

To consider a new memorial bench installation proposal. The clerk updated that he had received a request for a memorial picnic bench installation rather than a standard Bench installation and that it be sited in another part of the MPF. The committee were not opposed to the idea of the concept of citing a picnic bench on the MPF.

Subsequent to this meeting I relayed the thoughts of the last Community Committee to the requester and have received the following new request from the resident who represents a group of residents –

'We would like to commemorate and remember our friend [REDACTED]. Our friendship group would like to purchase a seat or picnic bench located in a place which is very special to us all and is this located behind the Bowls club. With us all growing up in Steyning, for many years we have come down to this corner and spent the summer holidays all together playing football, catching up with each other and just enjoying being outside at the Memorial Playing Field. [REDACTED] often said this was his favourite place to be and we hope to have a special place to look back over the countless memories made here with [REDACTED]. For many summers to come we will come back to this spot and once again enjoy each other's company. With [REDACTED] being well known around Steyning, many others that knew him will also find comfort in this area and for those that didn't have the pleasure of knowing him it will serve as a place of reflection and appreciation for the area that [REDACTED] loved so much. It means that we, family members and the huge number of people in the Steyning community who knew [REDACTED] can use this special, respectful place to meet, chat and picnic.

This location, although a little bit further away from the play park, is still within view from a large area of the memorial field which would also make it ideal for people with dogs. Dogs aren't allowed in the play area and of course not all dog walkers who meet or end up at the memorial field have children, so a picnic bench located away from children would be better suited to them'.



I wonder if committee could consider this request for a picnic bench to be installed in the area noted by the requestees (as a red block on the map, and perhaps that it becomes part of a picnic bench installation for families – perhaps we might consider up to three benches in this area as a facility for families that might all be purchased via memorial bench requests, rather than just one picnic bench sitting on its own.

We could obviously discuss what type of picnic bench it could be at another time, but by way of a guide see below for a locally sourced bespoke product which uses naturally felled local hardwood at a cost of £1,250 for construction and installation.

