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| Subject: | Ruby Murray Memorial Park Signage & Memorial Tree Installation |
| Date: | 04 th March 2025 |
| Reporting Officer: | Stephen Leonard , Operational Director City & Neighbourhood Services |
| Contact Officer: | Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer Open Space & Streetscene |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After Council Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Some time in the future | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Never | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | To provide members with draft design options for new signage at Ruby Murray Memorial Park |
| 1.2 | This report is also provided by way of follow up to the item raised at People and Communities committee in Feb 25 relating to the installation of a memorial tree at Ruby Murray Memorial Park. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | For members to consider the contents of the report, approve options for Ruby Murray Park signage, and consider whether they want to approve the request for the installation of a memorial tree within the Ruby Murray Village Green. |

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| 3.0 | Main report |
| | Background and Context |
| | <u>New Park Signage Options</u> |
| 3.1 | <p>In February 2024 the People and Communities committee advised that the signage erected at the Ruby Murray Village Green was very small and, at the request of Councillor T. Kelly, agreed to erect larger signage at the Green and that the new signage would include some information on Ruby Murray. Officers have engaged with our design contractors who have provided the design options for consideration and approval by members. These can be found in Appendix 1.</p> |
| 3.2 | <u>Proposed Memorial Tree Installation</u> |
| | <p>In addition to new upgraded signage, in February 2025 the committee agreed in principle to the installation of a memorial tree at the Ruby Murray Village Green to recognise the community development and good relations impact had by Mr Trevor Greer. Belfast City Council currently has no policy position on the planting of memorial trees to commemorate individuals. However the practice within City & Neighbourhood Services has been to not grant permission for memorial trees. The following bullet points include details of previous decisions and other issues relating to the installation and maintenance costs of memorial trees, memorial benches etc within parks and open spaces and the naming of assets in line with naming guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2019, the People and Communities committee agreed a positive policy position for future tree planting requests within Parks and Open Spaces, which marked significant occasions and events, and subsequently a number of events and occasions have been marked in this way. • Bereavement Services confirmed position since 2017 via committee decision is not to allow/sell memorial trees at Roselawn/BCC cemeteries. This is due to the resource intensive long term maintenance requirements (13.5k+ trees at Roselawn); unauthorised installations at trees (small fences and memorials, flowers, scarfs etc); and use of non-native species. • In parks and open spaces no new memorial trees have been agreed by OSS for Parks/Open spaces management in recent years. The only formal option available to public (besides naming of assets within parks/open-spaces) is the purchase and installation of memorial benches and (where appropriate) - naming of assets in line with naming guidelines. |
| 3.3 | <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> |
| | <p>The costs for signage design and installation are included within OSS 24/25 revenue estimates.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p>The costs for purchase, installation and maintenance of a memorial tree would be met from within existing estimates.</p> |
| | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u> |
| 3.5 | <p>There are no good relations or rural needs impacts associated with this report.</p> |

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| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 - Signage options for Ruby Murray Village Green |