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| Subject: | Memorial Bench in Woodvale Park |
| Date: | 10th April 2018 |
| Reporting Officer: | Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Rose Crozier Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department |
| Contact Officer: | Fintan Grant City Park Manager North |

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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 seek approval to install a memorial park bench in Woodvale Park to raise awareness of suicide and in memory of those who have taken their lives. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the installation of the bench. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| | <u>Key Issues</u> |
| 3.1 | S.A.M.H.I (Suicide Awareness and Mental Health Initiative) have approached the council seeking approval to install a memorial park bench in Woodvale Park adjacent to a memorial tree planted there several years ago. |

3.2 S.A.M.H.I was formed in 2016 following the deaths of three young footballers from different teams in the Woodvale area who took their own lives. The group raise awareness of suicide and mental health issues and work closely with 15 football clubs in the local area. They also raise awareness through visits to post primary schools, the boy scouts, and girl guides and boys brigade.

3.3 The group in partnership with 22nd old boys' football team and EXTERN have formed a "hope zone" in the neighbourhood, which takes place twice per month in a local community building. This provides "care givers" with an opportunity to avail of therapy and counselling services in a safe and confidential environment. The hope zone provides these services through 11 volunteers and crisis workers.

3.4 The bench will be designed, fabricated, and installed by the group in a fitting location, which has been agreed with the park manager. The dimensions of the bench have been designed in line with our normal park benches with an inscription and logos as below.



3.5 Woodvale Park is a well-used facility with in the local area and is frequented by a wide demographic and the bench's location has been carefully chosen to relay the message to as wide an audience as possible while blending in with the current park furniture already in place.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.6 No financial or resource implications for BCC other than use of the space.

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| 3.7 | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached |
| | None |