



# **Tree-memberance Commemorative Trees Programme**

Create a green environment  
for yourself, your family  
and generations in the future.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Tree-Memberance Commemorative Tree Programme is to add trees to Torbay's urban forest and give the sponsor the opportunity to commemorate an event or person.

People plant trees as memorials to commemorate rites of passage or other life events. Your sponsorship helps in contributing to the development and management of Torbay's Tree Scene, creating a green environment for yourself, your family and generations in the future.

There are many places around Torbay where memorial trees are welcome. Opportunities exist where tree planting is part of a conservation program in parks and gardens or in establishment of avenues, hedgerows and new woods. For a variety of reasons it may be less easy to accommodate memorial planting in existing woods.

## **2. POSITION**

Torbay Council responds warmly to requests for commemorative tree planting. Planting sites for individual trees will be offered only when there is a very high probability that the planted tree will remain undisturbed to old age but this cannot be guaranteed.

All of Torbay's parks and open spaces are potential venues, as are existing tree lined streets. However, it is vitally important that any tree fits into the long-term landscaping of the area. The management for conservation of the surrounding landscape or its biodiversity will take priority over the protection of an individual tree.

## **3. PLANTING SEASON**

The main season for tree planting is from November to March. At this time of year trees are in a dormant state and are able to be planted with a minimum of distress and allow good establishment of your tree. However, if the tree is to be planted to commemorate a specific date then out of season planting may be possible upon request.

## **4. ACTION**

- In every case the location, species, tree size and type of protection will be determined by Torbay Council. Not every site will be the same therefore the cost of a commemorative tree may vary.
- In order to be satisfied about the quality of the trees and the way they are planted Torbay Council will always provide and arrange the planting.
- Charges for a commemorative tree planting will reflect all direct costs and include a provision for the continuing management of the tree.
- In some locations a planting plaque may be possible; however, this will be determined on a site by site basis by Torbay Council. All commemorative trees plantings will be recorded on the council's electronic tree database, to include the contact details of the donor.
- Dedication of a memorial tree will give the donor no right to determine or influence its future management in any way but by accepting responsibility for the care of memorial trees Torbay Council will ensure that proper maintenance shall be carried out in line with best practices.
- Sometimes it will be possible for the donor to be present at the planting stages for the commemorative tree, or a dedication ceremony can be catered for, but the timings of such events are entirely the decision of the Council.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR DONORS**

As the sites for tree planting are for the passive and active enjoyment for all users, it is not permitted to under plant or to place flowers at the planting site.

Unfortunately, newly planted trees may fail to establish due to pests, disease or vandalism. Torbay Council will **NOT** guarantee that any tree will survive to full maturity and will not be responsible for any replacement costs deemed negligent on our part, due to things beyond our control.

## **HOW WE MANAGE THE FUNDS**

The funds received in the Commemorative Tree Programme are used to purchase trees to serve as a living reminder of the special people or occasions in our lives.

### **Sponsors may:**

#### **Adopt a Tree**

This option is the most readily available and the preferred form for commemorations. To "adopt" an existing tree and have a plaque attached to the tree, the sponsor must request a list of available trees, which includes the level of donation necessary for each tree. The more historic, regal, significant and long-lived the tree, the higher the level of donation required.

Since the cost of maintaining a tree in good health throughout the life of the tree is largely dependent on the longevity of the species and its predisposition to limb damage and disease, the donation level is highly variable.

Sponsor plaques will remain on the tree until the tree dies or is removed because it has become a hazard or in accordance with any new designations for the area. In some cases this could be as little as 5 to 10 years and in others (e.g. a long-lived Oak) it could be over 200 years. If a tree is removed for construction purposes (e.g. new building additions, relocation of sewer lines, etc) the sponsor will be informed and the care can be transferred to a comparable tree, providing one exists.

The plaque, rather than reading "This tree was planted in memory of John Smith" will read something like, "The care of this tree is being provided by Mrs. Jane Smith in memory of her husband, John Smith."

Just because a tree is adopted this does not give the right of the sponsor to manage the tree as they see fit; any management work will be undertaken and agreed solely by Torbay Council's tree officers.

#### **Commemorative Tree Option**

If a sponsor chooses to have a new tree planted, rather than adopting an existing tree, a formal request must be made to the Tree Services Manager, who will inform the potential sponsor whether or not there is a memorial tree space available in the preferred location, and whether the Council has the intent to add a tree to the landscape that could be designated as a memorial tree within the desired time frame.

The Council will choose the type of tree and the location of the planting site since these two decisions must be made with any management plans in mind. However, if multiple trees are available, the sponsor can choose from the list provided by the Council.

## **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST**

As stated above, the adopt a tree option will depend on the tree chosen for the commemoration but, as a guideline only, adopting a large Plane tree adjacent to a residential property would cost around £2000, but

to adopt one of the smaller Mountain Ash nearby would be in the region of £200, which is the minimum cost for any commemoration.

The cost for any new commemorative trees is estimated as £500, which would include the purchase of the tree, it's planting and aftercare and any associated ceremony at the time of planting, any plaques or tags are not included. Further details can be requested if required.

#### **WHEN CAN TREES BE PLANTED**

Planting of any commemorative tree will normally take place in the next available planting season, which is usually November to March of each year. Any trees planted outside of this time frame will incur a higher charge and will not be replaced should they fail in the first four years.

#### **WHAT SPECIES CAN BE PLANTED**

A list of trees recommended for planting can be requested and dependant on the location of planting. Special Request for other types of species will be considered, however the Council has the final approval.

Every effort will be made to place the tree in the park, woodland or Highway verge of your choice. However, if conditions warrant, the Council reserves the right to place the tree in the location best suited for the tree.

#### **REQUEST FORM**

Email: [trees@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:trees@torbay.gov.uk)

tel: 01803 207797