

## 14. Memorial Benches

Many of the benches in the memorial garden are covered with flowers and mementos which means that people are not able to sit on them. Although we recognise that this may bring comfort to grieving families, this was not the original intention of the garden and people should be free to sit on the benches that are there.

The proposal is to agree a sympathetic letter to be sent to the owners of the benches, asking them to ensure that the seats are free for people to sit upon. Flowers and mementos can be laid underneath the benches or at the side providing access is not obstructed.

Although there is now an agreement in place for new benches, there was not one previously, which means that no older owners' details are held, making the sending of letters very difficult. If one or two councillors with a good knowledge of the residents of Parton can take an inventory of all the benches and provide the clerk with details of the owners, that will help. Any that cannot be identified will have to be left a letter in a plastic bag fixed to the seat.

The clerk can draft a letter and forward by email to councillors for approval before sending.