NOTICE OF THE
CITY LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 26 February, 2020
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Logan Meeting Room
          Level 3, Logan City Council Administration Centre
          150 Wembley Road, Logan Central
Committee Members: Interim Administrator - T O'Shea
1. Welcome

2. Acknowledgement of Country

3. Leave of Absence

4. Parks
   4.1 Memorial Benches in Cemeteries

5. Confidential Documentation
   This section includes any supporting confidential documentation relating to specified Committee reports.

6. Late Reports
4.1 MEMORIAL BENCHES IN PARKS

REPORT OF: Parks Manager

REPORT OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Council at its meeting of 1 April 2014 considered a report from the Parks Manager regarding proposed changes to a policy to facility memorial benches. At this meeting Council resolved (Minute No 76/2014):

“That the Parks Manager be requested to provide a report to a future Parks, Health, Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting proposing amendments to existing Policy titled ‘Cemeteries’ to incorporate memorial benches, as detailed in the report of the Parks Manager dated 18 March 2014 (Id: 8845982).’

This report presents a discussion on the content of the Policy – ‘Cemeteries’ and its implementation in an operational manner, and seeks endorsement to continue with the current regulatory practices in relation to the provision of memorial benches in cemeteries.

Criteria: Direction

CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITY

Quality Lifestyles

REPORT DETAILS

BACKGROUND

Council at its meeting 1 April 2014 considered the matter of memorials and other structures unlawfully being constructed in cemeteries. At that time Council endorsed a proposal to amend the Policy - ‘Cemeteries’ to address some operational concerns around unlawful memorial benches being installed at Council’s cemeteries.

The circumstances at the time of the report in 2014 were that two unlawful structures had been erected in cemeteries and a decision of Council was sought around how to manage these issues. The proposed amendment presented in the report of 2014 was seeking more prescriptive provisions around memorial benches.

The Policy – ‘Cemeteries’ as adopted in 2017 is the same as that at the time of reporting in 2014. Council’s Policy – ‘Cemeteries’ contains procedures that govern the use and function of cemeteries across the City.

Council currently manages six active cemeteries in:

- Beenleigh
- Eagleby
- Logan Village
- Maclean
- Parkhouse
- Chambers Flat
DISCUSSION

Council’s Policy – ‘Cemeteries’ (ID: 7391216) specifically provides for monuments and other structures to be erected within cemeteries, by requiring that these proposals must receive written consent before commencement of construction and conform to Australian Standard (AS 4204 – 1994) Headstones and Cemetery Monuments (refer background papers). This is the case for memorial benches as structures.

In accordance with Council’s Local Law No. 14 (Cemeteries), erection or installation of a memorial in a local government cemetery by any person is an offence unless authorised by a permit and a member of the family of the deceased person or has a proper interest in the maintenance of the memorial.

Since 2014, Council’s Parks Branch has received a low number of requests for memorials in cemeteries, being approximately five bench requests. Requests that are received are assessed under the current policy provisions relevant to structures (which includes memorial benches):

2. The following procedure is to be undertaken for this policy:

(e) Monuments and other structures to be erected within cemeteries must receive written consent before commencement of construction and conform to Australian Standard 4204 -1994.

Furthermore, since the original resolution of Council seeking amendment to the Policy – ‘Cemeteries’, Council has endorsed masterplans for the cemeteries of Beenleigh, Logan Village and Chambers Flat. These masterplans now help guide council staff on the future provision and location of infrastructure within Logan’s major cemeteries.

Given the current effectiveness in managing memorials and benches in cemeteries, and having undertaken a technical review of the policy, it has been concluded an amendment to the policy is not required.

CONCLUSION

This report seeks to address the proposed amendments to the Policy – ‘Cemeteries’ as per Council’s previous resolution, to provide clarity to the treatment and facilitation of memorial benches in Council’s cemeteries. Proposals for memorial benches in cemeteries can be dealt with under the current policy, where benches are forms of structures.

Given the current effectiveness in managing memorials and benches in cemeteries, and having undertaken a technical review of the policy, it has been concluded an amendment to the policy is not required. Rather the effect of Council’s resolution to facilitate memorial benches in cemeteries can be achieved within the existing regulatory and policy framework.

The design or style of bench, and its proposed location can be assessed by Parks Branch in accordance with any relevant cemetery masterplan and implementation documentation. This would ensure that memorial benches are consistent with the layout, design, and function planned for each cemetery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED:-

That the Parks Manager continue to manage requests for memorial benches in cemeteries on a case by case basis within the current Policy – ‘Cemeteries’, as detailed in the report of the Parks Manager dated 26 February 2020.