

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**                 **TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 2013**

**REPORT BY:**         **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**SUBJECT:**           **ROADSIDE MEMORIALS & FLORAL TRIBUTES**  
**POLICY**

**1.00**   **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01    To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed policy in relation to Roadside Memorials and Floral Tributes on the Adopted County Highway Network, taking into consideration their importance for the beliefs of some religious and ethnic groups.

**2.00**   **BACKGROUND**

2.01    This policy has been produced in response to the increasing number of memorials being placed within the public highway following a fatal road traffic collision or other sudden death. There is an acceptance nationally for the desire to place a tribute in the vicinity of the incident, particularly in the immediate aftermath and before funerals take place. In common with other Local Authorities and the Welsh Government this policy seeks to manage the situation, rather than prohibit such placements.

**3.00**   **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01    Visits by bereaved relatives and friends of the deceased to the scene of the fatal collision are sometimes part of the grieving process and it is common for floral or other tributes to be placed on the highway in memory of loved ones.

3.02    Arguments can be made for and against the impact of roadside memorials in either heightening awareness of a potential danger at the collision site or creating a dangerous distraction. Members of the public, who construct roadside memorials or place floral tributes, at higher risk locations, may be putting themselves and others in danger.

3.03    Whilst roadside memorials can be of comfort to those grieving for the loss of a loved one, when flowers wilt and other tributes deteriorate, nearby residents can become distressed at both their appearance and the daily reminder of the fatality. Therefore the Council has a responsibility to balance sensitivity with safety to achieve the best possible outcome for all concerned.

3.04 Attached at Appendix 1 is a draft Policy for Roadside Memorials and Tributes. If adopted, the Policy will mirror arrangements adopted by the Welsh Government for their trunk road network, which are supported by the North Wales Police, providing a consistent approach to all roads within the County.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That Cabinet approves the Policy for Roadside Memorials and Floral Tributes.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The policy will operate within existing budgets.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 Not applicable.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 The Policy will help to manage the environmental impact of roadside memorials and floral tributes.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 The Council acknowledges that the desire for a memorial can have particular religious or ethnic importance to the bereaved. The policy provides for those wishes to be sensitively considered along with the safety of the bereaved and other road users.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None identified.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 No further consultation is required.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 North Wales Police have indicated a similar level of support to that given to the Welsh Government policy.

11.02 The Cabinet Member for Environment.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1. – Roadside Memorials & Floral Tributes Policy.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985** **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

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