

Request to locate a park bench in the New Recreation Ground - February 2023

Background

Melbourn Dynamos is a thriving and friendly community youth football club that gives boys and girls the opportunity to play regular football regardless of their experience or ability at all ages from 3 through to 18. The Dynamos have over 300 players in 20 teams, including mixed and girls only teams. We regularly play on the new rec, bringing together children, parents and officials from around the area to form links in the community which last a lifetime.

Sadly just over a year ago a much loved member of our club community, Sam Kinyanjui, passed away. Sam was a parent of players, match referee for many years, and much else. He is sorely missed.

A group of parents have resolved to commemorate Sam's memory. We request the placement of a memorial bench on the new rec, for spectators, parents and all the community to enjoy in memory of Sam.

Initial Proposal for discussion

We approach the idea in the spirit of open consultation and collaboration and acknowledge the help of the Clerk in providing indicative support for the idea thus far. Accordingly, we are open to all ideas and suggestions from the committee. Our initial proposal is presented for discussion and modification as the committee see fit.

We propose to source, procure and place a c. 1.5m memorial bench at the western edge of the new rec. We are open to proposals on preferred design, providers, and installers, should it be required by the design. Our initial proposal is something akin to the image overleaf, web link [here](#). We envisage a small and simple plaque on the bench.

In terms of location, we propose a position between the ditch at the western edge and the touchlines of the marked-out football pitches. We note that there is already at least one flat bench on the very edge of the rec, close to the ditch.

Our options for installation vary from free standing (with cost & flexibility benefits but risk of theft) through to hard anchoring into either concrete footings or a larger concrete base (with additional cost, reduced flexibility and potential maintenance downsides). We note the potential for precise location and installation approach to affect maintenance arrangements e.g. grasscutting around a fixed bench, and seek guidance on the parish's preference in these matters.

Our budget is not yet set; at this stage we seek agreement in principle and a steer on precise location and preferred installation approach. If and when we obtain an outlined agreement, funds will be raised from the Dynamos community. We are conscious that the more permanent installation options may be outside of our fundraising capability.

We thank the committee for their time and attention in this matter and look forward to working with members to identify a suitable approach and to deliver this small memorial feature for the whole community to benefit from.

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Figure 1 – proposed bench design



Figure 2 – proposed bench location



Red mark on western edge indicates proposed location