



Cork County Council

Policy on Roadside Memorials

1. Introduction

Cork County Council recognizes and respects the wish of the bereaved to mark roadside deaths by way of erecting a roadside memorial at crash locations. As the Roads Authority for County Cork, this Council also aims to ensure that public roads in its charge are kept safe for all road users, and in this policy endeavours to balance the wishes of the bereaved with that of public safety. All roads have potential dangers and the site of road collisions may be particularly hazardous and pose a distraction to motorists. The safety of all road users, as well as of those placing, attending at or maintaining memorials, is the overriding safety issue in the consideration of roadside memorials.

The purpose of this policy is to try to provide a clear statement of what will be allowed on public roads under the control of Cork County Council.

This policy, in general, will not affect existing memorials erected by members of the public. However, should an existing memorial become damaged and/or in need of replacement, the replacement memorial must comply with this Policy.

It is assured that all situations involving applications for the erection of roadside memorials will be dealt with in a sympathetic, understanding and sensitive way, and where and when appropriate, staff will liaise directly with those wishing to place memorials along the roadside.

2. Civic or Historical Memorials (outside the scope of this Policy)

This policy does not cover civic memorials or memorials commemorating important historical events, which involved loss of life, such as the War of Independence, as these types of Memorials are generally more substantial in nature, involve community support and therefore require more detailed assessment and consideration. Such Memorials are therefore outside the scope of this Policy and are subject to a separate Cork County Council Public Art Policy, which sets out a detailed set of criteria and guidance for persons or groups proposing to erect such Memorials or other artistic features in public areas.

3. Application to Erect a Roadside Memorial

In order to ensure roadside memorials are erected with road safety foremost in mind, an Application seeking the consent of the Roads Authority for the erection of any roadside memorial must be submitted in writing to Cork County Council. The following information/documents are required with such an Application, and must be submitted **prior to** any works commencing:

- a) Completed application form to erect a Roadside Memorial.
- b) General site location map and sketch of the proposed layout, including geographic coordinates and photographs of the site if possible.
- c) Dimensioned drawing of the proposed memorial & details of materials to be used.
- d) Details of person/company engaged to erect the monument and their insurance details.
- e) Permission from the Landowner whose property affronts the road where the memorial is proposed to be located.
- f) Permission from the next-of-kin of the deceased, if not applicant.

No fee applies in respect of processing such Applications.

4. Specification for erecting a Roadside Memorial

The Council's Engineering/Technical Staff will consider all applications individually and make recommendations in accordance with the Specifications set out below :

- a) The dimensions of a roadside memorial shall not exceed 600 mm high by 600 mm wide, by 150 mm deep.
- b) The memorial shall be located at the back of the roadside verge, along the line of the boundary wall, fence, hedgerow or ditch.
- c) Where the boundary is of solid construction, such as a wall, the memorial may be affixed to that structure, so that the maximum level of the top of the memorial is 1 metre, above the surrounding level.
- d) Where the road boundary is not of solid construction, such as hedgerow, fence or drain, the memorial may be freestanding. If the freestanding memorial is of stone or metal it must be mounted at ground level. If mounted above ground on a post or posts, it shall be made of wood and the maximum height of the top of the memorial shall be 1 metre over surrounding ground level. Sketches are provided on page 4 for clarity.
- e) Landscaping of the memorial with permanent or semi-permanent fixtures, including kerbing, is not permissible.

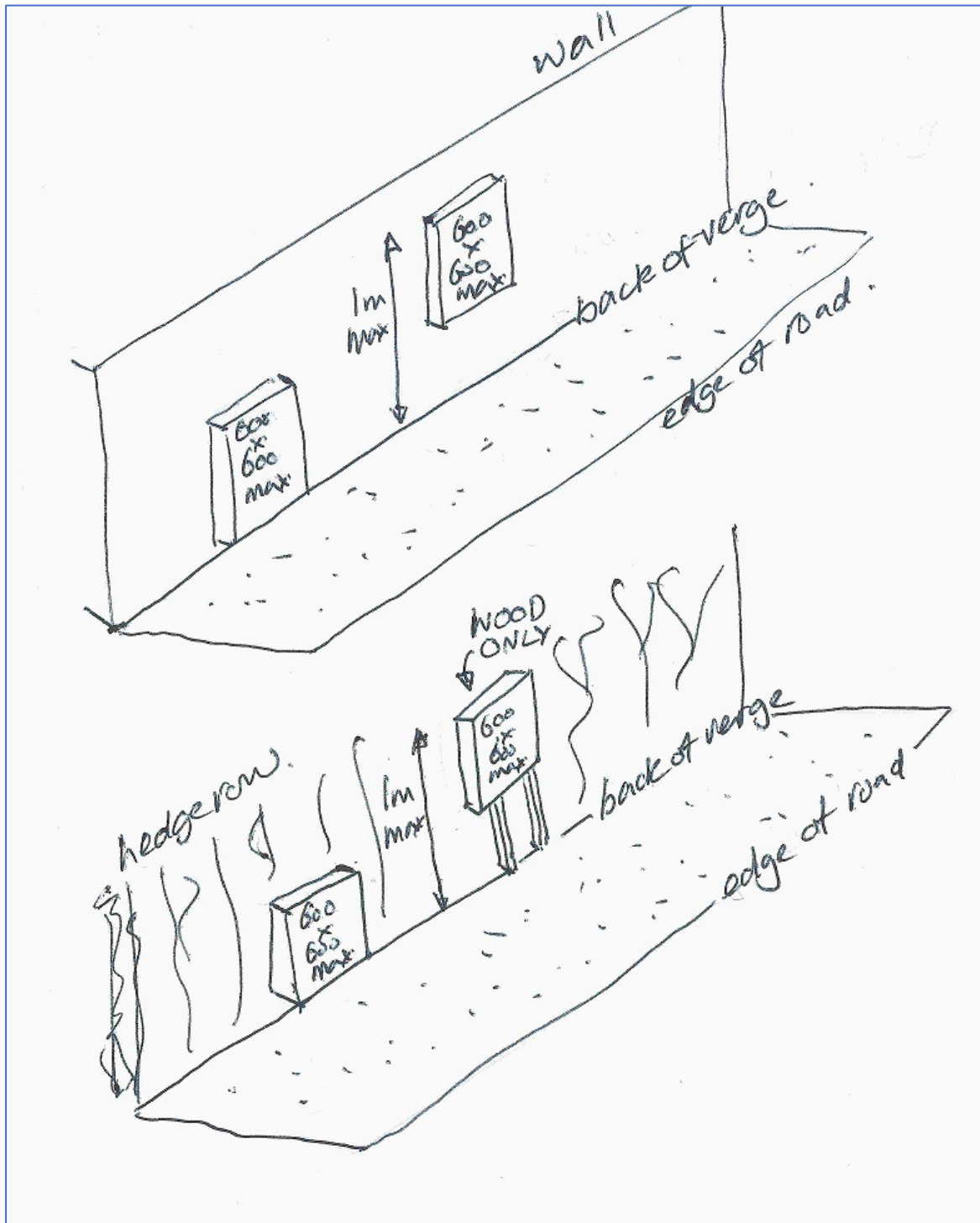
- f) Floral tributes should not exceed a 1 metre square area and Cork County Council reserves the right to remove excess floral tributes if deemed a safety issue or receives justifiable complaints from the general public.
- g) The memorial shall not be illuminated and shall not include items likely to distract road users, such as reflectorized stickers, glass, soft toys, plants and solar lights.

5. General Conditions

- a) The applicant shall be notified in writing of the decision made by the Council.
- b) The location must take into consideration the future safety of road users. If the proposed location is on a hazardous section of road, such as at a narrow verge, road crest, bend, junction or where there is high-speed traffic, the Area Engineer will liaise with the applicant to agree on a safe alternative nearby location.
- c) No roadside memorials will be permitted along or in proximity to any section of motorway or dual carriageway, as these are high risk locations unsuitable for pedestrians.
- d) An Application to erect a memorial on other National Routes will be subject to the prior approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
- e) Roadside memorials will only be permitted to commemorate a road fatality that has occurred at that location within the 24 months prior to the date of receipt of Application.
- f) The policy in relation to the size and layout of roadside memorials is very specific. These memorials are not intended to appear like gravestones or plots as one might expect to see in a graveyard, for example.
- g) The memorial shall not interfere with the safe use of the public road or interfere with the roadside drainage system or other public utilities.
- h) The monument contractor or person erecting the memorial shall indemnify Cork County Council against all claims which may arise during the erection process. Evidence of appropriate insurances shall be provided to the Council prior to any works being undertaken.
- i) In the event of Cork County Council carrying out future road improvements in the area and it becomes necessary to relocate the memorial, the applicant(s) will be given the opportunity to relocate it themselves or the Council will arrange for its re-location. The Council will pay the reasonable cost for the re-location of the memorial in this circumstance.
- j) Cork County Council shall not accept responsibility for any roadside memorial, nor the loss, damage or removal of roadside memorials that may occur, wilfully or accidentally, and the person erecting the memorial and his/her successor shall be responsible for its ongoing upkeep and maintenance.
- k) Cork County Council reserves the right to review the consent to the placement of any memorial, should such requirement arise at any future date.

- l) Unauthorised memorials, erected without the appropriate *prior* written consent of Cork County Council, shall be removed.
- m) The final decision regarding the removal of any memorial rests with Cork County Council.
- n) Cork County Council shall review the Roadside Memorial Policy after a period of three years has elapsed.

Sketch to clarify memorial size & position





Application to Erect a Roadside Memorial

(for internal use) File Ref: _____

Please refer to Cork County Council – Roadside Memorial Policy

Please complete in full and return with relevant documentation to: Roads Management & Development Unit, either by post to Cork County Council, Annabella, Mallow, Co. Cork or by e-mail to Roads@corkcoco.ie

1. Name of Applicant: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Phone Number: _____

4. Email Address: _____

5. Name of Deceased: _____

6. Date of death: _____

7. Proposed Location of Memorial:

8. Dimensions of Proposed Memorial:

9. Material to be used for proposed memorial:

10. Proposed Inscription:

11. Person/company intended to erect the memorial:

12. Have you included the following?

- a) **Location map & Photograph of proposed site (including geographical co-ordinates)** Yes: _____ No _____
- b) **Dimensioned Drawing of proposed memorial** Yes: _____ No _____
- c) **Insurance details for the person/company intended to erect the memorial** Yes: _____ No _____

13. Permission obtained from landowner, whose property affronts the road, where the Memorial is proposed to be located:

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

14. Permission obtained from next of kin of deceased (if not applicant):

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

15. Signed: _____ Date: _____

Privacy & Data Protection:

Personal information is collected by Cork County Council to enable the processing of your application. Cork County Council can legally process this information as it is necessary to comply with its statutory / legal obligations. Such information will be processed in line with the Council's Privacy policy which is available at www.corkcoco.ie

Application to Erect a Roadside Memorial

(Section of Form for internal use)

File Ref: _____

Applicants Name: _____

Proposed location of Memorial: _____

Area Engineer's Report :

Approval granted to the erection of the memorial: **Yes:** _____ **No:** _____

If no, state reason: _____

If yes state any conditions/alterations to apply, if any:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Area Engineer