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Roadside Memorials

A road death is not a normal death

A road death is sudden and unnatural. In these circumstances the need to remember loved ones often becomes extremely important and the desire for a physical memorial, permanent or impermanent, can be very strong.

Roadside Tributes

Tributes to road crash victims, at the site of the crash, are a common sight on Britain's roads. They provide a visible focus for grief and warn motorists, cyclists and pedestrians of the dangers that exist.

Local Authority Policies

RoadPeace supports a family's need to place roadside memorials and encourages local authorities to deal sensitively with these tributes.

RoadPeace believes each local authority should have a roadside memorial policy and work with the police to ensure that tributes are put up safely and taken down respectfully.

Responsibility for these policies is usually found within Operations or Street Management departments. RoadPeace is happy to help you find out about your local authority policy on roadside memorials so please get in touch if you would like us to do this for you info@roadpeace.org.

Making contact with the local authority before putting up a memorial is a good idea. This is a task you may choose to delegate to a family friend or someone who wants to help. If an authority is informed of a memorial site then there is more chance of it being treated with respect and future removal can be discussed with the family then.

While the police should keep families informed of how the collision investigation is going, local authorities also have a role here in ensuring that the crash location is safe and considering how future crashes can be prevented. If there are issues of concern here then ask your local authority what steps they are taking to ensure the crash site is made safe.

Placing Tributes

Family Liaison Officers will often offer to escort a family to the scene of a crash to lay flowers and pay their respects. They may also be able to inform you about local authority policies and local services of remembrance.

Removing Tributes

RoadPeace often receives calls from relatives who are very upset that flowers and other items have been removed without consultation. Again, policies differ from area to area with some authorities claiming roadside memorials can prove distracting. RoadPeace believes that the bereaved have a right to these tributes and that they

provide a warning and caution against future deaths and injuries.

If you are unhappy that a tribute has been removed insensitively then, if you are able, do get in touch with the local authority and explain why this has caused distress. This is the best way of ensuring that the local authority understands the importance of these memorials and considers the needs of the bereaved in these circumstances.

Remember Me Plaques

RoadPeace launched Remember Me Plaques in 2003. These are A4-sized laminated plastic and depict a single red flower on a black background with the words **Remember Me**. Families often choose to erect these signs on anniversaries or birthdays, as an ongoing recognition of their loss. Remember Me signs can be obtained from the RoadPeace office info@roadpeace.org. There is no fixed charge for a plaque but we do ask if you will consider making a donation. Please take care when putting up and taking down tributes and plaques.

Other ways of Remembering

Internet Memorial

RoadPeace hosts an internet memorial site where you can place a memorial to your loved one and add tributes. Internet memorials have become a very popular way of sharing memories and acknowledging the depth of loss. www.roadpeace.org/remembering

RoadPeace Wood

The RoadPeace wood is located at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Here trees can be planted in remembrance of a loved one who has died on the roads. Please get in touch with RoadPeace for more information about the wood. We hold a service of remembrance here each year on the second Saturday in August.

World Day of Remembrance

The third Sunday in November is World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims. It symbolizes an act of public recognition. Please get in touch with RoadPeace for details of remembrance activities near you. RoadPeace encourages you to organize your own remembrance activities which could bring together family, friends, schools and local communities.