Briefing Note
Commemorating Coronavirus Deaths
for Council on 25 March 2021

Agenda Item 8

The Scheme

Freeman Brothers Funeral Directors in Hurstpierpoint have approached the Parish Council to support a new national initiative to commemorate all coronavirus deaths across the world on 23 March. The idea stems from the Marie Curie National Day of Reflection campaign, which will be an annual event, for people to be able to reflect on all those who we have died, in hope of a brighter future.

With the enormous number of people who have lost their lives to Covid, together with the many bereaved families, Freeman Brothers would like to work with Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council to find a suitable position, within the heart of Hurstpierpoint, to plant some daffodil bulbs and a small plaque. They appreciate that this won't be possible to organise for this year, however they would welcome the opportunity to plant some bulbs in November, perhaps in a grassed area, on the Village Garden by the children's sculpture, or an alternative space, where the local community could come and take a quiet moment to reflect. They are also looking to do something similar in Horsham, Billingshurst and Crawley, where their other 3 branches are.

For 23 March 2021, Freeman Brothers staff chose to wear yellow and decorated their branches to commemorate those that have passed, whilst also respecting the 1 minute silence at midday.

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common have had minimal covid deaths, but sadly this is not the case for the other three branches. Freeman Brothers have witnessed first-hand just how devastating it has been for many families to lose a loved one to Covid and to then organise a funeral, with minimal family and friends being allowed to attend.

The Proposal

The proposal is to permit Freeman Brothers to plant some daffodil bulbs and a small plaque to commemorate all coronavirus deaths across the world as part of the wider Marie Curie National Day of reflection initiative on the Village Garden, or area to be agreed.

Recommendation

The following recommendation is proposed:

> **RECOMMENDATION: The Council AGREES to permit Freeman Brothers to plant some daffodil bulbs and place a small plaque on the Village Garden in Hurstpierpoint, to commemorate all coronavirus deaths across the world as part of the wider 23 March Marie Curie National Day of reflection initiative.**