

## MEETING PAPER

Subject: Kensington Gardens Holocaust Memorial Bench

Meeting: Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee

Date: 9 May 2022

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON CONFIDENTIAL

### Background/Introduction

At its meeting on 7 March 2022, the Committee decided to proceed with the purchase of the following bench as a Holocaust Memorial Bench to be installed in Kensington Gardens:



Cllr Breakspear and Community Warden Jonny Hawes have undertaken a site visit to the Gardens to determine a location for the installation of the bench.

### Details

Kensington Gardens has two Holocaust Memorial beds. A Holocaust Memorial lectern is due to be installed within the next few weeks at the circular bed. Cllr Breakspear and Jonny agreed the bench should be installed as close as possible to the Holocaust Memorial beds to ensure it has context. To achieve this, their suggestion is to relocate the bench as shown below:



to a vacant plot in the Gardens as shown below:



The Holocaust Memorial Bench would then be in a position facing the Holocaust Memorial beds. The existing bench proposed for relocation is not a memorial bench. The Project and Committee Clerk is seeking quotations for relocation and installation costs and hopes to have these available in time for the meeting.

Additionally, the AID Committee chose this design of bench as it primarily wanted to convey a message of peace. To ensure that visitors are aware the bench is intended to be a Holocaust Memorial Bench, the Committee may wish to consider installing a small plaque onto the bench (a stainless-steel dedication plaque 120x80mm accommodating up to 45 words of engraving, provided by the bench supplier is £67 +VAT).

The Communications Officer and Project and Committee Clerk have been looking at options for wording and have found the following quotes from Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel:

*“For in the end, it is all about memory, its sources and its magnitude, and, of course, its consequences”*  
*“Even when it seems hopeless, I invent reasons to hope”*  
*“For the dead and the living, we must bear witness”*

And the following quote from Israeli historian and scholar of the Holocaust Yehuda Bauer:

*“Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander.”*

### Considerations

The Committee is asked to consider approving the relocation of the existing bench in Kensington Gardens to accommodate the installation of the Holocaust Memorial bench in an appropriate location.

The Committee is asked to consider approving a plaque for the bench, and the wording it would like to see on the plaque.