

## Witham Town Council: Scattering of ashes policy

### Policy Overview

This Policy has been introduced regarding the scattering of human ashes on the Council's managed open spaces. This is to ensure that the issue is administered for the mutual benefit of all users.

### Objectives of the policy

The Council is seeking to ensure that it is adopting a clear, measurable and sympathetic approach to the management of its facilities, which will take account of the sometimes contrasting needs of a variety of users to our open spaces.

The policy will relate to the scattering of ashes on the River Walk, Whetmead Nature Reserve and James Cooke Wood. The scattering of ashes is not permitted in All Saints Closed Churchyard also managed by Witham Town Council.

### General

- All applications to scatter ashes within the Councils open spaces should be completed on the request application form as per appendix 1 from the next of kin or executor.
- No memorials will be allowed on the site where ashes have been scattered.
- The Council reserves the right to remove any memorials.

### Scattering of ashes on Council open spaces

- Ashes shall only be scattered in a location agreed in advance with an authorised Council officer and at a predetermined date and time in consultation with the next of kin or executor.

- No flowers or similar memorials shall be permitted to mark the occasion on the site at any time.
- The ashes should be scattered thinly and not in one solid mass on the ground. They should be scattered avoiding shrubs, trees and flower beds.
- Care should be taken when scattering ashes. This should be carried out discreetly, being aware of the wind direction and other users of the open spaces.
- Scattering of ashes can take place 7 days a week between the hours of dawn to dusk

**Agreed at Minute 48, Environment Committee meeting held 15.04.2024**

**Reviewed: 14.04.2025**

**Review Date: April 2027**

POLICY NO: WTC/60 - Environment Committee