

Kegworth Air Disaster – 8th January, 1989.

Memorial Garden: Dedicated at a service on the 8th September, 1990.

Kegworth Parish Council wished to contribute in some way and resolved to erect a memorial to those who died, those who were injured and those who took part in the rescue operation. North West Leics. District Council agreed to place a plaque as close to the scene as possible, which it did on the M1 bridge on Ashby Road, Kegworth. The actual site of the crash was considered too dangerous for those who would wish to visit the memorial as it would have been on the edge of the M1 motorway. Immediately after the crash the M1 was widened at this point and the soil upon which the aircraft came to rest was removed and placed in Kegworth Cemetery. This forms the base for the memorial garden.

After a great deal of deliberation, Kegworth Parish Council decided that Kegworth Cemetery would be the best location for a Memorial to those who died, to those who were injured and to those who took part in the rescue operation. The chosen site had a number of advantages:

- The ground was owned by Kegworth Parish Council,
- The memorial would be maintained as part of Kegworth Cemetery,
- The location was quiet (except when aircraft flew overhead),
- The location was ideal for quiet contemplation,
- The location was in a prominent position in the Cemetery,
- The location was under the flight path approximately half a mile from the M1.

A working party of Parish Councillors was set up under the Chairmanship of the then Chairman of Kegworth Parish Council, Cllr. Mrs. Pam Brooks. An offer was received from Messrs. ARC Shepshed Quarries of a gift of a major stone. The working party accepted the offer from ARC and a stone of local green granite weighing some 11 tons was chosen to be the centre piece of the Memorial garden. The stone was considered to be symbolic of strength and everlasting remembrance. ARC made considerable effort to protect it whilst delivering and craning it into place. (estimated value £1500)

A local architectural company Fawkes, Perry, Culley and Rech designed the Memorial garden and acted as consultants to the construction. (estimated value £3000)

Ernest Smith Ltd, Monumental Masons, inscribed the stone and had inserted five engraved panels of Westmoorland Slate. (estimated value £3500)

Bredon Quarries gifted and delivered crushed stone for the drive (estimated value £250)

Messrs. Tarmac excavated the site and relocated earth saved from the actual crash site to the memorial site. (estimated value £1000)

Messrs. Hicksons, the landscape structures manufacturer, provided the Trellis at cost value. (estimated saving £500)

North West Leics. District Council erected the trelliswork and undertook the planting and drive construction at a reduced price (estimated saving £1000)

Amstad, the ornamental furniture company, gifted a seat to match one that was purchased.
(estimated value £200)

G. Lubbe & Co., a Dutch Bulb company, gifted 1000 bulbs.
(estimated value £80)

BTCV, a Northern Ireland Nursery, donated trees, shrubs and plants.
(estimated value £200)

Woodgrow Horticulture provided the Barkmulch required.
(estimated value £50)

Wyevale Nurseries provided plants at a discount (estimated saving £100)

Savings totalled £11,380

Lesley Pendleton.