Dear memorial bench owner

Memorial bench - Frontage 4 of the Southsea Coastal Scheme

This letter is to advise you that the Southsea Coastal Scheme has now removed all memorial benches from the seafront area near Southsea Castle in order to build new flood defences. Your memorial bench for <insert name/s> is one of those that has been removed.

Your bench and plaque are being securely stored by the Southsea Coastal Scheme while work is underway. The future plan is to replace your plaque/s on new seating in as close an area as possible to your bench's original location when the area reopens in 2024.

In the interim, we would like to offer you some options for your memorial bench and plaque:

1. We remove your plaque and place it in a temporary location overlooking the Bandstand field. The original bench is returned to Portsmouth City Council.
2. You take ownership of your bench, but leave the plaque with us for placing in the temporary location.
3. You take ownership of both your bench and plaque, meaning we would not replace the plaque temporarily or permanently on the new seating.

If you opt to have your plaque placed in a temporary location, please note it will be positioned on a bench alongside several other plaques removed from the seafront area around Southsea Castle.

Please also note that if you opt to take ownership of your bench, you will be responsible for its collection.

If we do not hear from you, we will implement Option 1 of temporarily relocating your plaque and returning the bench to Portsmouth City Council. If you would like to discuss the options, please email southseacoastalscheme@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or you can call our helpline on 023 9284 1418. We also have a drop-in information centre at our Pier Road offices and would be happy to chat to you in person.

Thank you for your patience over this time as we work to protect the area around Southsea Castle from the risk of flooding while improving the seafront and preserving the area's unique heritage.

Kind regards,

Southsea Coastal Scheme