
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	4 February 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	LP/011/20
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	SiMBA Inverclyde Tree of Tranquility – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of a request received from Councillor McCabe that consideration be given to the attached letter from SiMBA, a charity that supports anyone affected by the loss of a baby during pregnancy or birth, seeking funding of £6,880.26 towards the installation of a Tree of Tranquility in Gourrock Park.
- 1.2 The letter includes a document which explains about Trees of Tranquility and provides details of the proposals for the Inverclyde Tree of Tranquility and the services provided by the charity.
- 1.3 As relevant background, Members should note that Officers have had prior contact with the group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

APPENDIX

Councillor Stephen McCabe
Leader
Inverclyde Council Labour Group
Elected Member for Ward 1
Inverclyde East
Municipal Buildings
Greenock
PA15 1NB



Request for funding to support the SiMBA Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity supporting bereaved families, across Inverclyde and beyond.

Dear Stephen,

I am writing on behalf of SiMBA; we are a charity that supports anyone affected by the loss of a baby during pregnancy or after birth (www.simbacharity.org.uk). I am reaching out to you to ask Inverclyde Council to support our application and grant £6,880.26 to allow SiMBA to install a Tree of Tranquillity in Gourock Park, Inverclyde.

I have attached a document that explains more about our Trees of Tranquillity, our proposed plans and the vital services that we provide.

If you need any more information at all about this proposal then please do not hesitate to contact me on gillian.wells@simbacharity.org.uk or by telephone on 0131 353 0055.

I very much look forward to hearing from you,

Warmest regards,


Gillian Wells
Events & Partnerships Officer, SiMBA

Request for funding to support the SiMBA Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity supporting bereaved families, across Inverclyde

The SiMBA Tree of Tranquillity



This proposal document requests funding of £6,880.26 from Inverclyde Council to allow us to install a SiMBA Tree of Tranquillity in Gourrock Park, Inverclyde.



The Tree of Tranquillity is for anyone who has been affected by the loss of a baby, regardless of whether their bereavement has been recent or many years ago. It is important that we acknowledge early pregnancy and historical loss as sadly these families may have received little or no recognition of their baby. The Tree provides the means to express a private and public declaration of the lost hopes and dreams that the family had for their baby. It is a beautiful symbol of remembrance and gives a great deal of comfort to those who visit.

The tree design is unique to SiMBA, it is a life-sized copper sculpture that effectively 'grows' as individually engraved leaves are added to honour each baby's memory. Our aim is to offer bereaved parents the opportunity to honour their baby in a simple, gentle and positive way.

"A leaf on The Tree of Tranquillity means so much as it gives us a lasting memorial for our little boy Robert, where we can go as a family to reflect; even though you never forget your little one that you have lost this gives you somewhere to visit for a little closure to help with the pain." Kirsty Brown

Andrew Fenner created this video for SiMBA which explains the importance of our Trees of Tranquillity. To watch this film please click on the link below:

<https://www.simbacharity.org.uk/what-we-do/trees-of-tranquillity/>

Our proposal for the SiMBA Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity

The [SiMBA Tree of Tranquillity](#) would be installed in Gourrock Park, on the hill that sits behind the bandstand with beautiful views across the Clyde. We want to create a special place within Gourrock Park that is accessible to the public and local community; a place to honour our babies.

As part of the Tree of Tranquillity site we would also install a small paved circular walkway around the tree so that families can clearly see their leaf/leaves and planters filled with plants and shrubs that are native to the Inverclyde Region and help to support a healthy eco system. Planting wild flowers will also give the butterflies a place to feed when released during our annual Butterfly Release.



We will also install a bench (that would site on paved flagstones), allowing those who visit the opportunity to rest and spend time and a bronze plaque that would read: "The SiMBA Tree of Tranquillity. Where our babies come together, a place where you can share thoughts or have quiet moments".



We are very mindful of the positive impact that green spaces can have in the community:

“**Green spaces** also are important to **mental health**. Having access to **green spaces** can reduce **health** inequalities, improve well-being, and aid in treatment of **mental illness**. Some analysis suggests that physical activity in a natural environment can help remedy mild depression and reduce physiological stress indicators.” Source The World Health Organisation.

Project Costs

Our fundraisers have raised £9,719.74 of their £16,600 target but we need to raise the balance of £6,880.26 to allow us to install a SiMBA Tree of Tranquillity in Gourock Park, Inverclyde.

Our £16,600 target has been broken down as follows :

Cost to manufacture and install the Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity and paved walkway - £11,640.00

Cost to manufacture and install the SiMBA Bench and flagstones - £2,988.00

Cost to manufacture and install the Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity Plaque - £378.00

SiMBA costs to cover site visits / administration / initial supply of leaves for the Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity - £731.40

Contingency to cover ground works costs / plants / shrubs and flowers - £862.60 *

*- we would be grateful if the Council could help us to install and maintain the planters as part of the Gourock Park.

Media & PR

We would work with you and Council's Press Office to promote any partnership on our social media/ website / press and to organise media attendance for the Tree of Tranquillity unveiling and future media for any SiMBA events.

Maintenance and Health & Safety

The Tree of Tranquillity will require very little ongoing maintenance, however we are aware that over time the planters and the flagstones around the Tree and under the bench may become worn or damaged. We would ask for Council support to maintain the planters around the Tree of Tranquillity and to make us aware of any damage to the flagstones so that we could work together to repair any damage.

SiMBA has full public liability insurance in place (up to a maximum of £10,000,000) and we can provide a risk assessment for the Inverclyde Tree of Tranquillity upon request.

What does a Tree of Tranquillity Look Like?



Each of our commissioned hand-crafted trees are unique and individually sized in relation to their location. Once the tree is commissioned it is built in sections and assembled on site. The tree base is bolted and secured onto a concrete foundation, then an area created around it to allow those visiting to easily see their leaf / leaves. Installation of the tree itself would normally take around 2 days.

We attach leaves to our Trees of Tranquillity approximately every 6 months using a braising technique. The Tree of Tranquillity is a place of remembrance, it is not a shrine and we ask that no items are left at the tree site apart from flowers that we would ask to be removed when they are wilted. If any items are left at the Tree site then we ask that they are safely stored until the family can arrange a time to collect it again.






Adding Leaves to the Tree of Tranquillity

Leaves are requested through our website (<http://www.simbacharity.org.uk>). Once a request is received we send out the copper leaf /leaves to those who have requested them to allow them to have their leaf engraved with their own personal message. Leaves are added to the tree approximately every 6 months. We keep accurate records and store pictures of each leaf, should we ever need to re-create or replace any part of our trees.



Our SiMBA Tree of Tranquillity Locations

We currently have 8 Trees of Tranquillity which are installed in the following locations (listed by order of installation).

-  [City of Edinburgh & Lothians – Saughton Winter Gardens](#)
-  [Galashiels, Scottish Borders](#) – Old Gala House
-  [City of Inverness](#) – The Botanic Gardens
-  [Kirkwall, Orkney](#) – Private Garden Space
-  [City of Glasgow](#) – Provan Hall
-  [Airedale, West Yorkshire](#) – the Sunbeam Garden
-  [City of Dundee, Tayside](#) – The Botanic Gardens
-  [Oban, Argyll & Bute](#) – Dunollie Museum Castle and Grounds

Our Annual Awareness Events

The SiMBA Butterfly Release

Each year we hold a butterfly release at each of our Tree of Tranquillity locations. We encourage everyone from the very young to those young at heart to come together and join us to release a butterfly to honour their baby.

The service itself lasts around 30 minutes; it is a short, non-denominational service of readings and poems read by parents and health care professionals, written for us by bereaved families who have been supported by SiMBA. As part of the event we provide entertainment for our younger guests (i.e facepainter / magician / storyteller) and have singers, choirs and musicians performing for us. Afterwards we invite everyone to join us for a tea / coffee and a chance to chat or for quiet reflection.

This beautiful gentle event, provides the opportunity for bereaved families to talk with members of the SiMBA team, chat with other families or sometimes just say nothing at all but know that they are surrounded by those who understand.

The Butterfly is the symbol of SiMBA, their metamorphosis is incredible; they transform from a caterpillar, to a beautiful butterfly in such a short time; their strength, transformation and determination parallels on so many levels with the families that we support.

We ask those joining us to pay £15, to cover the cost of one butterfly and to cover the catering costs for their party and to help towards other event costs incurred.





We work with a supplier who is an award-winning educator in his field, and we release Painted Lady and/or Tortoiseshell butterflies that have been bred to be disease free and help to replenish the dwindling butterfly numbers in the wild. We keep a count of all the butterflies that we release should any of our venues wish to provide this information to any other groups or organisations.


The Glasgow butterfly release is currently the closest to Inverclyde, this event was held in ProvanHall on Saturday 17th August 2019 and is scheduled to be held again on Saturday 15th August 2020.


About SiMBA


SiMBA (<https://www.simbacharity.org.uk/>) was established in 2005, we are here to support anyone who has been affected by the loss of a baby, here's how we do it :

 We donate [Memory Boxes](#), each one made up by a volunteer, to help families to gather everlasting memories of their most precious time spent together with their baby. We currently donate our Memory Boxes to over 300 hospital units across the UK and Ireland, we have donated over 23,000 individual Memory Boxes since the charity started in 2005. Our Memory Boxes are created to support a specific gestational loss. Our smallest box for a loss under 14 weeks, our medium box for a loss between 14-24 weeks and our largest is for a loss over 24 weeks and into the neonatal period. We donate our Memory Boxes to Inverclyde Royal Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

 We refurbish [Family Rooms](#) within maternity units, giving families a tranquil, homely place to spend the most precious time with their baby. We are currently working on Family Room refurbishments in the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, St John's Livingston, The Borders General, The Princess Royal Glasgow, Raigmore Inverness and the Royal Alexandra Neonatal Unit.

 We offer free [bereavement and palliative care study days](#) (in conjunction with CHAS, Children's Hospices Across Scotland) where we train health care professionals, students and any professionals involved in the care and support of bereaved families.

 We offer monthly bereavement [support groups](#) run by volunteers across Scotland, 24-hour on-line support and family friendly awareness events throughout the year. Our nearest support group currently meets in Linwood on the first Tuesday of each month in the Tweedie Hall from 7pm-9pm.

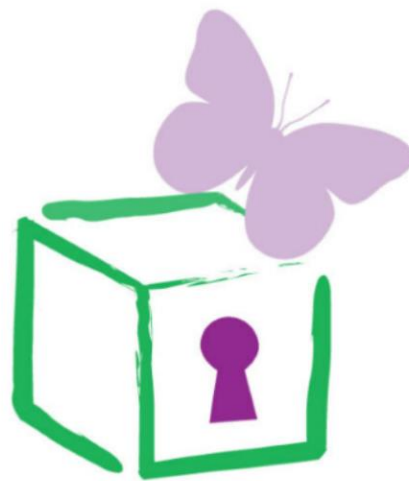
 We hold annual Butterfly Releases at our Tree of Tranquillity sites and we join Baby Loss Awareness Week to host Wave of Light services across Scotland on the 15th of October. We would look to hold a butterfly release at the Tree of Tranquillity site in Inverclyde to unveil the tree then make this an annual event held during the summer months.

**We do not ask for payment to cover any of our services;
we are supported by fundraisers and donations.**





SIMBA



Simpson's Memory Box Appeal ©

