

ROTARY CLUB TREE OF REMEMBRANCE BALLYCASTLE	4th October 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR DECISION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy, Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will be supporting local charities by allowing the Christmas tree to be used by Ballycastle Rotary Club for charitable donations
Lead Officer	Head of Estates
Cost: (If applicable)	

1.1 Background

Council have been approached by Ballycastle Rotary Club requesting that they be allowed to use the town Christmas tree as a means of raising money for local charities during December.

Members of the public will be invited to leave messages in remembrance of loved ones who have passed away or others who cannot be with them for Christmas. These messages will be written on yellow ribbon which will then be draped onto the tree. For each message a donation can be made with the receipts shared by local Ballycastle charities.

Council are asked to allow the tree to be used for this purpose and to assist with the initial set up when the tree is being erected. This will be of minimal cost to Council. The Rotary Club will supply all fittings and man the tree from 10am to 5pm each day from 8th to 24th December 2016 to provide the ribbons and accept donations. It should be noted that a similar arrangement already exists in Limavady (see letter attached as Appendix A).

1.2 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council permit and assist the Rotary Club of Ballycastle to use the town Christmas tree as a means of raising money for local charities.



Rotary Club of Ballycastle

19th September 2016

Dear Aidan,

Thank you for meeting with Brian Jamieson, Werner Scheel and I on Friday.

We propose to create a Remembrance Tree utilising the existing Christmas Tree that will be in the Diamond for Christmas Season. The Rotary Club of Ballycastle wish to organise and man the project so that Ballycastle Christmas Tree will be covered in Yellow Ribbons by Christmas Eve 2016. We propose to begin the Ribbon Campaign on December 8th and finish on December 24th. The Tree will be manned daily from 1000 to 1700.

This idea has already been pioneered by other Rotary Clubs in Northern Ireland. Werner Scheel, who is our mentor, has successfully organised the Derry Rotary Tree for many years. Ballycastle are lucky that he will assist and instruct our club in the most efficient way of creating the tree. Other examples of this successful Rotary Remembrance Tree are in Limavady, Lisburn, Letterkenny and Strabane.

Our Club will have Yellow ribbons available from our Rotary Booth which we will locate in the Diamond close to the Tree. Members of the public will be invited to write a message on the ribbon to commemorate a loved one who has passed on, or indeed loved ones far away who can't be here for Christmas. They are then requested to make a donation to the fund. There is no charge on the Ribbon just a voluntary donation. The Ribbons are then attached to the Tree and hoisted up as each strand fills. Eventually the tree will be covered on Yellow Ribbons. The funds collected will be shared by local charities in Ballycastle.

The Rotary club of Ballycastle propose to invite local Charities to express interest in sharing this fund through local media and social media once permission is granted from Council. Members of the interested clubs will be requested to assist the Rotarians at the Tree during the campaign.

I have advised the Chamber of Commerce and the Ballycastie Community Development Group of our application and have enlisted their support in this community project.

As a Rotary lead initiative, the Remembrance Tree has been a fantastic success and we hope that with local support, it can be the start of something truly engaging for all in Ballycastle.

We hope you will look favourably on our application to create a Ballycastle Remembrance Tree in the Diamond for 2016.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary O'Driscoll

Special Projects Chair