

Update on the Enforcement of Cemetery Regulations

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REASON FOR REPORT

This report has been produced to provide an update on the enforcement of the recently revised cemetery regulations. This was requested by the Committee at their meeting of 21 January 2014.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To note the update
2. To request further clarification on the enforcement of cemetery regulations

INFORMATION

Since the new Regulations were introduced last year, I am pleased to report that we have had no serious incidents of non-compliance with the regulations.

We have also now changed our process for granting permission for requests from residents for benches, trees, memorials etc. Since we introduced the new regulations any request requires the grave owner or resident to meet on site with the Deputy Manager, to ascertain the exact location required and agree if this is suitable. If permission is granted, which is in most cases, the size of trees, foundation for bases for benches are agreed and we now have a record of ownership. This has been well received and working well.

As previously advised to the Committee, we do not have any major problems within the cemeteries, except the issue at West Drayton cemetery, and in particular a section of the community who will always try to push the boundaries regarding the regulations relating to headstones, memorials and anti-social behaviour.

The area that has historically been a problem is now almost full, and a planned extension at West Drayton cemetery is now going through the planning process.

The new extension planned, will allow for both "Lawn and Traditional" plots which is in line with our new policy. We are also offering this facility at our other cemeteries wherever possible.

Having said that, we need now to be very vigilant as we approach the warmer months ahead as historically this is when illegal installation of headstones and memorials occur, and anti-social behaviour takes place, all these mainly at weekends at West Drayton Cemetery.

We still have 2 outstanding issues with families at West Drayton Cemetery that need to be resolved, which are complex in nature. These are in the process of being resolved.

A more detailed verbal report will be given to the Committee at its meeting on the 26th March should Members require this.

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS