

Update on the Committee's POC Review on Regulations and Byelaws relating to Cemeteries and Burial Grounds within Hillingdon

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee will be provided with an update on the progress made in implementing this Committee's recommendations on the review undertaken in 2013, on the Regulations and Byelaws relating to Cemeteries and Burial Grounds within Hillingdon.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to give consideration to the information provided, updating Members on the implementation of the recommendations of the review on the Regulations and Byelaws relating to Cemeteries and Burial Grounds within Hillingdon.

INFORMATION

1. At the Cabinet meeting on 23 April 2013, approval was given to the recommendations of the review this Committee carried out into the Regulations and Byelaws relating to Cemeteries and Burial grounds within Hillingdon.
2. The recommendations which were endorsed by Cabinet were:

Sustainability / Fairer Usage by All

- a) That Cabinet agree the revised set of Cemetery Regulations that have been updated to make the rules clearer and fairer for *all* residents and users of different religious beliefs. This includes the necessary promotion of the rules both to funeral directors and bereaved families in a suitable and sensitive manner.

Resident Engagement

- b) Support any 'friends' groups that may wish to be established in relation to local cemeteries; additionally, that the Council continues to work closely with the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and ask officers to agree a local procedure on how to deal with anti-social behaviour, specifically within cemeteries.
- c) Ask officers to investigate the reintroduction of leaflets and a pictorial booklet to summarise key elements of the regulations to be circulated to bereaved families via Funeral Directors.

Residents' & Environmental Services POC

22 February 2016

Good Maintenance

- d) Considers the best way for officers to inspect memorials in cemeteries and how to best achieve this in line with health and safety objectives;
- e) Welcome Cabinet's decision to bring cemetery grounds maintenance back 'in-house' as part of the award winning Green Spaces team.
- f) That Cabinet agree to the creation of a long-term (5 year minimum) rolling strategy for the Council's cemeteries, which should be published on the Council's website and at the cemeteries office. This should include, in particular, a winter rolling programme of works to cemeteries be publicised to residents so they are clear when essential works are taking place.
- g) Having reviewed the grounds and facilities across the Borough and following evidence received from witnesses, to note three particular service improvements, which Cabinet may wish to investigate further and consider as part of the service and budget planning process:
 - To explore more cost effective options of using machinery to break down clay soil used for graves;
 - The lack of toilet facilities and a shelters for families to congregate at any of the Borough's cemeteries with the exception of Hillingdon, noting that there is also a lack of places of prayer;
 - The condition of the Grade I arch at the entrance of Hillingdon & Uxbridge cemetery.

3. Paul Richards, Head of Green Spaces. Sport & Culture and Stuart Coleman, Bereavement Services Manager will be in attendance to update Members on progress made in implementing the review's recommendations.