

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 13 March 2023

Title: Tower Hill Cemetery - Pedestrian Gate

Contact Officer: Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

Background

In early 2022 the council installed a new pedestrian gate on the northwest side of Tower Hill Cemetery. This was to circumvent the access point at the bottom of Tower Hill Road which can be difficult for those with limited mobility to access.

Current Situation

As time has passed and understandable knowledge has been gained of the new access point through the cemetery, pedestrian traffic has increased. Most of this has been acceptable behaviour dog walking, general walking routes etc. but some has been negative. Anti-social behaviour has been on the rise in the cemetery, twice mopeds have been caught using the gate, lately young groups have started hanging around the new pedestrian entrance. All incidences have been reported to 101 with the request of including the cemetery in regular rounds, but no response has been received or any increased activity noticed from police or PCSOs.

As the high flow of pedestrian traffic isn't appropriate for ceremonies in the cemetery the works team have taken to locking the gate for services. The gate leads into the burial sections that are actively being used, so the team have felt it necessary to lock the gate to maintain a respectful service.

There are multiple rights of way that pass through the cemetery so locking all the pedestrian gates in the evening isn't an option. The most feasible idea would be to install a sign on the gate stating 'this gate will be locked for funeral services' or something similar.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

Not known at this time.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Agreement to locking the gate during cemetery services.
2. Consider options to help alleviate the problems addressed in the report.