

## HALLS, CEMETERIES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

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**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Title:** Tower Hill Cemetery:

- a) New Public/Pedestrian Access – Update
- b) Vehicular Access – Accessibility Audit

**Contact Officer:** Operations and Estates Officer - John Hickman

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### Background

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress since the last meeting – Minute H31 and H32 refers.

#### a) New Public/Pedestrian Access – Update

The letters to the relevant exclusive rights of burial owners' have been prepared and will be sent out on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 followed by the public consultation leaflet to the Smiths Estate on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 21. Deadline for responses is 7<sup>th</sup> May in order to be able to report back to the Halls, Cemeteries and Allotment meeting in June.

Additional quotes to open a gap in the boundary wall to make an additional pedestrian access and has had the quotes for the footpath reviewed to bring up to date and also to include making the path wider 1.8m as recommended in the Access Audit.

A suitable gate and Posts has been selected for the new entrance, will this gate be left unlocked giving pedestrian access 24/7 or is it to be locked and opened in line with the vehicular access gates.

#### b) Vehicle Access

The DDA report regarding TH Cem access requested by council was carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the report makes several recommendations regarding the disabled access to the cemetery, requests maps and terrain guides at entrances, alterations to the car parking arrangements, maintenance of footpaths, benches, handrails and steps. They further recommend that the current policy around site access is maintained and that the suggested new pedestrian footpath is a minimum of 1.8m wide with 2m preferred. Some of these recommendations will require Officers to review if they are possible to accomplish i.e. handrails and steps do to the limitations within the cemetery.

## **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. Consideration should be given to the Cemetery Access Risk Assessment in making a decision regarding the new access.

## **Financial implications**

A budget amount will need to be made available to cover the associated costs of carrying out the recommended works in the report. There is currently money available in the 301/4036 Tower Hill cemetery maintenance budget perhaps these funds could be rolled over into 2021/22 financial year to cover all or part of the associated costs of these works.

## **Recommendations**

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

- 1.** Maintaining TH cemetery access policy as it is at present as recommended in the access audit.
- 2.** Setting an additional budget sum to cover the associated costs of Cemetery Access Audit reports recommendations.
- 3.** Rolling the remaining 2020/21, 301/4036 maintenance budget into the 2021/22 financial year to enable the recommendations in the report to be carried out.
- 4.** Officers to gain quotes for associated works and materials recommended within the access audit.
- 5.** Consideration as to whether the new pedestrian access gate will be left unlocked or a policy set as to opening times for the gate.