

HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 24 May 2021

Title: Cemeteries Update

Contact Officer: Cemeteries, External Contracts & Compliance Officer –
Tracy Minns

Background

The purpose of this report is to update committee members on cemetery matters.

Current Situation

Survey for the proposed new access to Tower Hill Cemetery

Total number of responses was 84 and of these 51 were grave owners. In total 29 of the responses were in favour of a new entrance and 45 were not. Of the total number of responses 60.71% were grave owners and 68.63% of these were not in favour of the new entrance mainly for reasons such as anti-social behaviour, providing a shortcut to other destinations or dog walking. Most responses in favour of the new entrance were residents of the Smiths estate and other than the small number of these needing to access graves it would seem the rest would find it useful as a short cut to get into town. Only 9 responses were completed on-line using Survey Monkey.

Memorial Gate Windrush Cemetery

A request has been made by a member of the public to replace the wooden gate leading into the ashes area at Windrush. The individual has an ashes grave for his daughter and several reserved grave spaces along the ashes path. Please see attached the email received.

Up-date on Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Due to the re-organisation of Council staff this task has moved to the new Cemetery, Contracts and Compliance Officer and will be completed in time for the next cycle of meetings

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.

Due to the nature of the works involved in creating a hole in a drystone wall and tarmacking over grass there will be an associated environmental impact to any wildlife flora and fauna in the vicinity.

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.

The risk identified from increasing pedestrian movement in the cemetery would be the danger from moving vehicles. Vehicular access may need to be reduced to avoid the danger to pedestrians.

Allowing the installation of a new gate in memory of an individual may set a precedent which would need to be considered when looking at future requests

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

There are quotes attached for the work that would be involved for the work to provide a new access and path in Tower Hill Cemetery. As there is no budget for this associated works will have to come from capital reserves.

Recommendations

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

1. The results from the survey
2. Application for a memorial gate
3. Selection of contractors for footpath and wall works if agreed.