



Please ask for Amanda Clayton
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The Chair and Members of
Chesterfield and District Joint
Crematorium Committee

13 September 2019

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE to be held on MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 1.00 pm in , the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers relating to items on the Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Tour of facilities
4. Appointment of a Vice-Chair (to be appointed from Bolsover District Council)
5. Minutes of the Joint Crematorium Committee held on 23 May, 2019 (Pages 3 - 10)
6. Local Government Act 1972 - Exclusion of the Public

To move "That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of

business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

7. Bereavement Services Manager's Report (Pages 11 - 18)
8. Chesterfield Crematorium Fees and Charges 2020/2021 (Pages 19 - 30)
9. Local Government Act 1972 - Re-admission of the public
10. Budget Monitoring Report - Period 5 (Pages 31 - 34)
11. Chesterfield and District Crematorium Environmental Impact Report (Pages 35 - 46)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE**Thursday, 23rd May, 2019**

Present:-

Councillor Powell (Chair)

Councillors Antcliff
Armitage
Blank
HolmesCouncillors J Innes
Mannion-Brunt
Wright

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

1 APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR (TO BE APPOINTED FROM NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL)

That Councillor Powell be appointed Chair of the Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee for 2019/20.

(Councillor Powell took the Chair).

2 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE-CHAIR (TO BE APPOINTED FROM BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL)

That the appointment of a Vice-Chair from Bolsover District Council be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee as no members from Bolsover District Council were present.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ludlow.

5 MINUTES OF THE JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MARCH, 2019

That the Minutes of the Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee on 11 March, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Regulation 21 (1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972' on the grounds that it contains information relating to financial or business affairs.

7 BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

The Bereavement Services Manager submitted a report on matters relating to the operation of the Crematorium.

Information on cremation totals, comparisons with national and regional data, and geographical information on which areas funerals had been received from in 2018/19 was provided in Section 2 of the officer's report.

The report also provided an update on the progress of Management Plan Projects and advised the Committee of reline work to Cremators 2 and 3, scheduled for completion during the traditionally quieter months, ensuring that cremation services continued without disruption.

The report also sought approval to extend the fixed term clerical position to November 2019, enabling the completion of the project to computerise paper cremation records which would allow administrative staff to deal more efficiently with enquiries and reduce the risk of loss or damage to records.

The Committee thanked all staff involved in the operation and presentation of the Crematorium and its grounds, and sent their best wishes to the Bereavement Services Officer.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the alterations to the fixed term contract of the Clerical Assistant post be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS –

1. To ensure Members are informed of matters relating to the management of the Crematorium.
2. To ensure the back entry of cremation records is completed within the financial year.

8 REVIEW OF ASSETS AND RESERVES

The Assistant Director – Commercial Services and the Bereavement Services Manager submitted a report that provided information on the Crematorium's Reserves, Land and Property Assets, enabling the Committee to review their status and ensure that they continued to be managed efficiently and maintained in a consistent, strategic manner that supported service delivery.

The Crematorium holds six usable reserves: the Mercury Abatement Reserve, Cremator Repairs Reserve, Organ Reserve, Revenue Reserve, Capital Improvement Reserve and Equipment Reserve. The report provided details on the current position of the reserves and predicted future impacts including the need for repairs or replacement of equipment, drop in death rates and national investigations into the sector.

The Asset Register, which was attached at Appendix 2 of the officer's report, noted the current value of Land and Property Assets including the predicted life expectancy and replacement or re-build costs.

In response to the Committee's questions, the Bereavement Services Manager advised that the Crematorium had reduced its carbon footprint by harnessing heat to distribute throughout the buildings, installing solar panels on the roof and developing the grounds to create areas for wildlife. An assessment of the environmental impact of the Crematorium service would be carried out and the Committee requested that this be brought to the September meeting which would take place at the Crematorium.

RESOLVED –

1. That contributions to the Mercury Abatement Reserve continue at the rate per cremation set by CAMEO.
2. That the current balance of the Cremator Repairs Reserve be maintained and reviewed regularly.
3. That the Organ Reserve be maintained at the current level.
4. That the minimum balance of £250k be maintained in the Revenue Reserve and that the risks to revenue, including fluctuations in death rates, local competition and the investigation into the sector, be noted.
5. That the Management Plan projects, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report, be approved and that the current balance of the Capital Improvement Reserve be noted.
6. That the current value of land and assets, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the officer's report, be noted.
7. That an assessment of the environmental impact of the Crematorium be carried out and presented to the Committee in September, 2019.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS –

1. To ensure that the Crematorium has sufficient funds to replace cremation equipment at the earliest foreseen time so as not to place financial burden on the three Constituent Authorities.
2. To ensure, in the unlikely event of plant failure, sufficient funds are available to maintain, service and if necessary, replace individual pieces of crematory equipment until the full plant replacement.
3. To ensure sufficient funds are available to maintain the Crematorium's Church Organ in suitable condition.
4. To ensure that the Crematorium is protected against a loss of revenue due to a fall in cremation numbers.

5. To maintain and manage the Crematorium to acceptable standards over the coming years and to provide a caring, dignified service for the people of North Derbyshire over the coming years.
6. To keep Members informed of the Crematoriums Assets and their value.

9 RESPONSE TO REVIEW OF CREMATORIA PROVISION

The Assistant Director – Commercial Services and the Bereavement Services Manager submitted a report to update the Committee on the Competition and Markets Authority investigation into the Funeral Director and Crematoria Services Sector, and advise Members of the position of Chesterfield and District Crematorium in relation to the concerns raised.

The purpose of the review was to decide whether any feature or combination of features of each relevant market prevents, restricts or distorts competition with the supply or acquisition of any goods or services in the UK. The report outlined the three priority items that will be investigated, accompanied by a summary on Chesterfield and District Crematorium's position in relation to each. The three items were:

1. How local Authority and Private Crematoria set their prices, range and quality, including the extent to which local authority crematoria set prices above the level necessary to recover costs.
2. The profitability of local authority and private crematoria including an analysis of whether price increases can be explained by cost increases or investments in quality.
3. Evidence of the proportion of customers that crematoria tend to attract from locations for which they are not the closest provider and investigation of whether in these circumstances, customers are making active choices based on quality and price.

The report also provided an overview of the actions taken to determine if the Crematorium met the needs of different religious and non-religious groups.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION –

To ensure that Members are prepared to respond to the results of the market investigation and are reassured that management understand the concerns raised within the review and have acted accordingly.

10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - RE-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

That the public be re-admitted to the meeting.

11 REMEMBERING SREBRENICA

A letter from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, was shared with the Committee. The letter invited all local authorities to join in the commemorations of Srebrenica Memorial Week, 7-14 July, 2019, by holding a memorial event.

RESOLVED –

That the letter from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth be referred back to each individual authority for consideration.

REASON FOR DECISION –

To allow each individual authority to consider an appropriate commemoration for Srebrenica Memorial Week.

12 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

The Treasurer to the Committee and the Bereavement Services Manager submitted a report on the final accounts of the Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee for the year ended 31 March, 2019, including the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet.

The report noted that at year end there had been a surplus of £572,913 and outlined the areas where there had been variances from the approved budget.

Section 3.3 of the officer's report provided detail on the schemes that required carry forwards to 2019/20 which totalled £14,330.

Information was given on six usable reserves shown in the Balance Sheet, as attached at Appendix B of the officer's report:

- Revenue Reserve;
- Mercury Abatement Reserve;
- Equipment Reserve;
- Organ Reserve;
- Cremator Repairs Reserve;
- Capital Improvement Reserve.

The report noted that a redistribution of £499k had been made to the constituent authorities, the details of which were set out in paragraph 5.2 of the officer's report.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Statement of Accounts be approved.
3. That the carry forward requests, as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the officer's report, be approved.

REASON FOR DECISION –

To ensure that the Joint Committee approves the Statement of Accounts for 2018/19 and that a balanced revenues budget is maintained for 2019/20.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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BUDGET MONITORING PERIOD 5

MEETING: CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT JOINT CREMATORIUM
COMMITTEE

DATE: 23rd September, 2019

REPORT BY: BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER
CLERK & TREASURER

FOR PUBLICATION:

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the budget monitoring position as at the end of August 2019.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the report be noted.

3.0 PERIOD 5 BUDGET MONITORING

3.1 The original budget was approved at the 17th December 2018 meeting, but does not include the carry forwards of £14,330 approved at the 23rd May 2019 meeting.

3.2 There is currently a favourable profiled variance of £57,853. Details of the variances from the profiled budgets are shown below:

- **Employee costs** there is an over spend of £1,033. This is broken down to £2,465 over spend on salaries due to the profiling of the budget for the fixed term contract post and

implementation of the new pay grading and £1,432 under spend mainly on overtime and training.

- **Premises costs** are under profile by £28,391 this consists of:
 - General routine repairs – over spend of £3,133 partly caused by the removal of the canopy including asbestos
 - £17,519 of the under spend relates to creditors from 2018/19 who have not yet invoiced for their work on the waiting room toilets
 - Cremator repairs - under spend £2,900
 - Utilities – under spend £1,731
 - £3,062 of the under spend relates to projects outlined in the Service Improvement Plan which have not yet commenced including further improvements to the rose beds, signage and paths.
 - General routine grounds maintenance – under spend of £6,022
 - Minor miscellaneous items – under spend £290

- **Transport** costs are under profile by £1,300, mainly on fuel for machinery.

- **Supplies & Services** costs are under profile by £12,932 this consists of:
 - Medical Referee Fees – under spent by £613
 - Telephones – under spent by £2,054 due to the timing of the BT invoicing
 - £7,480 of the under spend relates to creditors from 2018/19 who have not yet invoiced for their work on upgrading the kitchen
 - General Supplies & Services – underspend of £2,785 in other areas.

- **Contracted Services** are under profile by £102.

- **Income** is over profile by £16,162, this consists of:
 - Cremation fees (inc. Medical Referees & Mercury Abatement) – over profile by £4,871, this is due to an increase of approximately 18 more cremations than budgeted for

- All Memorial Income – over profile by £7,108
- Other Income – over profile by 4,183 mainly caused by extended use of the chapel.

4.0 Capital Expenditure Projects

4.1 The refurbishment of the toilets in the chapel have been completed but the contractor is yet to invoice and the procurement process for the new mower has been completed and contracts are in the process of been drawn up.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the report be noted.

6.0 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 To keep the Joint Committee informed about the financial performance of the Crematorium.

Decision information

Key decision number	
Wards affected	All
Links to Council Plan priorities	To provide value for money services

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
David Corker	01246 345596 david.corker@chesterfield.gov.uk
Background documents These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared. Titles of background documents used: - Accounting Records	

Location:
Accountancy Services Section

This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.

Annexes to the report

For Publication

Environmental Impact Report

For Publication

Meeting: Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium
Committee

Date: 23 September 2019

Report by: Bereavement Services Manager

For Publication

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the environmental impact of the Operation of the Crematorium and the current regard for environmental issues.
- 1.2 To promote and facilitate the provision of cremation services with due regard to the environmental impact.
- 1.3 Encourage service options that reduce the risk of harm to our environment.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. The target will bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Net zero means any emissions would be balanced by schemes to offset an equivalent amount of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere such as planting trees or using technology like carbon capture and storage.

- 2.2 A motion was agreed at Chesterfield Borough Council's Full Council Meeting on 17 July 2019 to declare a climate emergency in the Borough.
- 2.3 A Climate Motion was submitted to North East Derbyshire District Council, to be debated on 8th July 2019.
- 2.4 A Climate Emergency Motion was sent to Bolsover District Council to be debated on 17th July 2019.

2.0 Carbon Footprint

- 2.1 The Manager has registered with the Carbon Footprint Ltd (<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/aboutus.html>) website and has had conversations with the Managing Director and Co-Founder, Mr John Buckley, to seek assistance in calculating the Crematorium's Carbon Footprint calculated against the energy consumed over a 12 month period.

The results of the calculation were that the Crematorium's Carbon Footprint was the equivalent of **317.17 tonnes of CO2e**.

A summary of the CO2 produced along with the energy used over 12 months at the Crematorium can be found below;

		Cost	CO2e
Electricity	115,377 kWh	£17,471.61	31.99 tonnes
Gas	1,537,036 kWh	£36,724.77	282.58 tonnes
Fuel (Grounds Maintenance Vehicles)	1000L	£784.00	2.59 tonnes
Total		£54,980.38	317.16 tonnes

To put this into some context, the Crematorium's Carbon Footprint is equivalent to the following;

Equivalent Carbon Footprint of 83 average cars per annum (source www.quora.com - 3.8 tonnes CO2e per car per annum)

18,726 Miles Flown by a Boeing 737-400 (Source www.quora.com - 17.2kg per mile)

149 average UK households per annum (source World Energy Council - average UK household 2.12 tCO2)

3.0 **Current Regard for the Environment**

Reduction of Plastic 2019 From Onwards

We are all increasingly aware of the harm to the environment from plastic because it is non-biodegradable often harming our rivers, ponds oceans and wildlife.

For decades the standard container in which cremated remains were collected from the Crematorium was a Polytainer - a plastic urn within a box. Often the Funeral Director would offer a range of urn or caskets to the bereaved at their premises after collection.

Until this year, 1500-2000 polytainers were purchased each year, manufactured in Asia and transported overseas before UK distribution by Funeral Suppliers. In December 2018, local Funeral Directors were surveyed on their preference and overwhelmingly supported a move towards a bio-degradable, UK made container. Feedback from Funeral Directors is that the bio-degradable urn is a more dignified and suitable container with a gold leaf emblem and higher quality, sturdy surround.

Pre 2019	2019 Onwards
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Reduction of Chemical Spraying/Pesticides

In March 2013, a plan was devised to reduce the amount of chemical use by grounds maintenance operations after pledging in its Management Plan to minimise the use of herbicides and chemicals.

To put the results of this pledge into context, 2009 spraying records show 6100ml of Round Up Liquid Weed Control used. In 2018, 1635ml were used. The reduction is primarily down to the decision to stop spraying rose beds and weed by hand. The results are not only beneficial to the environment, but the condition and standard of roses has increased tremendously.

Other chemicals have either been banned or ceased to be ordered including Casaron G Weed Control, Rose Clear Insecticide, Spearhead Weed Control.

Other areas which were historically sprayed are now also maintained by hand including seat bases, tree bases and site furniture.

Although spraying continues, it is now primarily focused on the driveways, paths and building perimeters. The correct spraying nozzles are used and the weed killer is mixed carefully to manufacturers guidance, according to the Risk Assessments to prevent overuse.

Natural Energy - Solar

Members approved a recommendation in the Manager's report dated 27 June 2011 for the installation of photo voltaic panels on the roof of both the office and Crematory at a cost of approximately £50,000 for 60 panels (20 on the office and 40 on the crematory). At that time, the Manager's Report estimated carbon savings over the life of the panels to be around 33 tonnes.

Over 12 months in 2018/2019, the energy generated and returned to the national grid was the equivalent of 11904 kWh generating a total net income of £3,806.80.

Heat Re-use and Recycle

In 2015, heating boiler plant was replaced and a new system incorporated along with a heat exchange plate. In summary, heat generated through the cremation process heats up the plate, which in turn, heats water within the storage tank that is then circulated around the buildings. Whilst the cremators are in operation, zero gas is taken from the grid to heat buildings, rather, waste heat from the Cremators heats office, crematory, chapel, grounds and waiting building areas.

Cremation Emissions and Filtration

In 2005, DEFRA introduced a requirement for the cremation industry as a whole to remove mercury from 50% of cremations by 2012. Along with the 50% target, the principle of "burden sharing" was introduced, a process whereby Operators who could install abatement plant do so, and the cost is shared with those could not install such abatement equipment. Defra recognised this as the most equitable way of achieving the target, whilst the cost or "burden" is shared by the entire sector.

In 2012, Chesterfield and District Crematoria saw the installation of Filtration Abatement Equipment designed to reduce harmful emissions to the environment.

Each year since 2012, the Crematorium has attained a Pollution Prevention and Mercury Abatement Certificate which details the number of abated cremations and the number we are able to contribute to the burden scheme, administered by CAMEO (Crematoria Abatement of

Mercury Emissions Organisation). The clean cremations are then purchased by crematoria without abatement thus sharing the financial burden of installation.

The Crematoria is regulated by the Local Authority Environmental Health Officer in accordance with the Pollution Prevention and Control Act and DEFRA Process Guidance Notes 5/2 for Crematoria.

Emissions to the environment are continuously monitored with excursions immediately investigated and addressed.

Since installation of Filtration Equipment in 2012, emissions of Hydrogen Chloride, Particulate, Carbon Monoxide and Organic Compounds have dramatically fallen. Gone are the days when visual emissions could be seen from the stack.

Each year the Crematorium is obliged under its permit to arrange annual independent stack emissions test measuring all emissions to the atmosphere. The last test in 2018 saw results well within the permitted parameters.

The Crematorium regulations restrict the use of materials harmful to the environment and for each cremation taking place, the Funeral Director will declare that the coffin and its contents meet these regulations. The Crematorium accepts eco coffins including cardboard, leaf and shroud cremations.

Recycling

The Crematorium has the following Recycling Schemes in place;

Metals; The recycling of metals from cremation, with the consent of the bereaved is undertaken as part of a scheme administered by the Institute of Cremation and Cemetery Management (ICCM). Orthopaedic implants and metals from the construction of the coffin are the majority of metals recovered. The surplus generated from this scheme is then distributed to Bereavement related charities throughout the UK.

Plastics; The Crematorium has an annual collection of plastics with Agriplast (Recycling) including a return scheme for used plastic urns (provided they have been completely emptied and suitably cleaned), plastic flower pots and plastic tubs for delivery of carbon filter additive.

Paper and Cardboard; Paper and cardboard is collected as part of a Chesterfield Borough Council.

Green Waste; No green waste leaves site. The retention of timber cuts in habitat piles is encouraged around the grounds. Timber that is chipped is used as mulch. Grass cuttings are left at strategic places around the headland of the Crematorium.

Biodiversity and Habitat

Maintenance regimes have been developed within the grounds to provide for a range of use. Differential mowing regimes have been put in place to encourage a diversity of flora and fauna with the Crematorium.

A woodland walk has been developed to provide a more natural area for the strewing of cremated remains.

The Crematoriums Wildlife Policy is attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 Future Considerations

It is recommended that the following actions are approved to continue to reduce the risk of harm to our environment over the next 12 months.

Action	Reason	Date	Officer(s)
Investigate the potential to switch to HVO Fuel as a replacement for 1000L Diesel per annum	Reduce greenhouse emissions by up to 90% against diesel. Renewable, sustainable, carbon offset. Drop in Replacement for Diesel and Gas Oil <i>Approximate cost £200 to annual fuel budget</i>	2019	RF DC SR

<p>Investigate the possibility of submission of Cremation Forms Electronically</p>	<p>Reduce journeys by Funeral Directors to deliver paperwork.</p> <p>Encouraged within amendments to Cremation Regulations.</p> <p>Approximate Cost; £0.00. Staff Resources to develop suitable systems.</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>RF GB</p>
<p>Promote and encourage the reduction of plastics in floral tributes.</p>	<p>ICCM Policy and Good Practice.</p> <p>Plastic wrappers in eco system and damage to wildlife.</p> <p>Reduce plastic to landfill.</p> <p>Approximate Cost; £250.00 Publicity or Leaflets. Staff resources to promote.</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>RF DC</p>
<p>Increase headland and reduce mowing regime to create habitat by 200m2</p>	<p>Increase wildlife habitat</p> <p>Approximate Cost; £0.00. Staff Resources to develop.</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>RF RP</p>
<p>Investigate and recommend participation in Carbon offsetting schemes.</p>	<p>Crematorium becomes carbon neutral.</p> <p>Approximate Cost; From £1113.00</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>RF</p>
<p>Investigate the need to promote and encourage car sharing for mourners.</p>	<p>Reduce greenhouse emmissions.</p> <p>Must be promoted in a dignified and sensitive manner.</p> <p>Increase car parking availability at the Crematorium.</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>RF</p>

	<i>Approximate Cost; £250.00 Publicity and literature. Staff resources to develop.</i>		
Continue to keep updated on latest Cremation Technologies.	To recommend environmentally friendly alternatives when the replacement of cremation equipment is next undertaken. <i>Approximate Cost; £0.00</i>	Ongoing	RF

4.0 **Recommendations**

4.1 That the report be noted.

4.2 Approve actions suggested at 3.0 with a further report presented to the Committee in 2020 following investigations. At the time of a further report, the actions taken to offset our Carbon Footprint will be incorporated into an overall rating.

5.0 **Reasons for Recommendations**

5.1 That Members are aware of the Environmental Impact of the Crematorium, current awareness and good practice and ensure that the Crematorium continues to seek options that reduce the risk of harm to environment over the next 12 months.

**ROSS FAWBERT
BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER**

Wildlife Policy

Statement of Aims

The Chesterfield and District Crematorium will seek to protect and enhancing the quality of the local environment and support the concept of a sustainable Chesterfield. The Crematorium will ensure that environmental priorities are fully integrated into all its functions and will:

- (a) take all reasonable steps to prevent cruelty to wild animals;
- (b) seek to conserve protected wildlife species and habitats;
- (c) manage existing wildlife habitats, create new ones, and encourage others to do the same;
- (d) work with nature conservation organisations to monitor and maintain records of wildlife in the Crematorium grounds;
- (e) encourage public access to and enjoyment of the Crematorium grounds; and
- (f) protect and enhance the open space, waters, trees and hedges under its control to meet the aims and objectives of 'A Greenprint for Chesterfield'.

Priorities for Action

Trees and Woodland

All broad-leaved trees and woodland are valuable for wildlife, but some types are particularly important. Although the Crematorium has no ancient or secondary semi-natural woodland, it does have a small area of planted wet woodland, which provides a useful habitat. This will be designated as an informal wildlife conservation area. Individual trees within the Crematorium grounds are also a valuable resource, providing some of the benefits of woodland in an urban setting. It is important that these trees are recognised for their conservation value and protected from mismanagement and loss.

The Crematorium will address the need for management of this resource, to maximise its wildlife and landscape potential, by the development of an arboricultural management programme. This will support the Wet Woodland Habitat Action Plan for Lowland Derbyshire, published in 2003. Special attention will be given to preserving dead wood, which is vital for many invertebrates, fungi, ferns and lichens.

Bats

Bats have been chosen as a Flagship Species in Chesterfield because they require specific actions over and above those for the habitats in which they are found. Their numbers have declined significantly in the UK over the last century. They require good roosting and overwintering sites such as hollow trees and old buildings, and insect-rich feeding sites such as flowery meadows, wetland and open water. Bat boxes have been installed in the Crematorium grounds in an effort to increase the number of available roosting areas and enhance the numbers of the bats in the neighbourhood. In addition, the Crematorium will minimise use of wildlife "unfriendly" herbicides and chemicals and increase the area of open water within the grounds to provide additional feeding sites.

Ivy

Ivy is a climbing, scrambling plant abundant as a groundcover shrub in the understorey of much rural woodland. It has a variety of conservation benefits and causes no direct damage to trees. Where ivy has grown high into the crown, it may affect tree stability. The natural balance of the crown, stem and roots may be adversely

affected by dense ivy growth and the tree may be liable to blow over in high winds, particularly when accompanied by rain or snow. Where such trees are near public footpaths or roads, we may remove ivy in the interests of public safety. Ivy may also be removed where it is detrimental to the visual aims of the planting.

Ivy does, however, provide a valuable habitat for insects and nesting birds and its berries provide food for birds, particularly during the winter months, when other food is scarce. It is also an important source of early and late nectar for insects.

Butterflies

Butterflies face constant threat from contemporary farming and forestry practices and from creeping urbanisation. Seven out of ten British butterfly species are in decline. The management of grassland habitats will be particularly important for the survival of the butterfly in Chesterfield. The Crematorium has relaxed its mowing regimes on amenity grassland around the grounds by leaving uncut margins around the perimeter boundary of the site. This will enable the main larval foodplants to flourish in sunny sheltered positions.

Our Bulb Remembrance Scheme will be amended to enable families to contribute to the purchase bulbs of local provenance.

Lowland Birds

Numbers of many once-common lowland birds have declined over the last 25 years to the extent that several species are protected. The song thrush, house sparrow, tree sparrow, linnet and grey partridge are all listed on the red list of birds of conservation concern in the UK. To improve the prospects for lowland birds, the Crematorium will work to maintain and enhance its stock of hedgerows, increase the density of tree cover in the Crematorium grounds, and has begun a programme of placing bird boxes in appropriate habitats.

Organisation

Our work to protect and enhance the prospects for wildlife around the Crematorium will proceed in co-operation with relevant organisations that share our aspirations. In particular, we will be working with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to develop a conservation management plan for the site.

In addition, we will seek to be represented on the Environmental Theme Group of CHART, the Local Strategic Partnership, which has the responsibility of taking forward the aims of Local Agenda 21 in the area.

