

## For Publication

### **Bereavement Services Manager's Report**

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Meeting: Chesterfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Report by: Bereavement Services Manager

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#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To keep Members informed of matters relating to the Operation of the Crematorium.

#### **2.0 Cremation Figures**

2.1 This part of the report details the cremation totals, comparisons to previous years and which constituent area funerals are being received from for the 2021/22 Financial Year to date.

APR – AUG	CBC	WEST	NEDDC	BDC	AV	OUTSIDE
APR – AUG 2019	355	55	240	135	3	53
APR – AUG 2020	477	59	336	112	13	110
APR – AUG 2021	399	66	258	128	4	56

	CJCC Cremations	Derbyshire Registered Deaths	England and Wales Registered Deaths
APR - JUN 2020	772	2,750	182,916
APR - JUN 2021	544	1,971	120,449
+/-	<b>-228</b> <b>- 30%</b>	<b>-779</b> <b>-29%</b>	<b>-62,467</b> <b>-36%</b>

In summary, the death rates in England and Wales are considerably lower in 2021 compared to the corresponding months last year, due to the first wave of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

### 3.0 Management Plan and Works

Members will recall that a number of projects and improvements were delayed from the last Financial Year to allow a focus on responding to the challenges of the Pandemic.

Please note the following update on the larger projects along with others scheduled for 2021/22;

*Chapel Air Conditioning – an initial survey and quotation has been received within the budget of £17,000. A full specification is currently being built and will be out to tender with works completed by the end of the current Financial Year.*

*Vestry Refurbishment – this work has now been completed.*

*Path Repairs – to take place in October 2021.*

*Roof Repairs, guttering, soffits, and fascias – specification and works out to tender in October 2021 for completion by end of current Financial Year.*

*Replacement Maintenance Vehicle – prices have been obtained, within the budget of £5,000 set aside for a replacement ride on brush cutter, to be purchased by end of November 2021.*

### **3.0 Additional Projects Identified**

The Woodland Walk area is an important area of the grounds since its development over the past 8 years, providing a natural area for the strewing of cremated remains and for people to spend time reflecting in a tranquil area.

The pond area is an important feature area and unfortunately, the bank of the pond has started to show signs of collapse. An initial quote of £8,253.13 has been obtained for the construction of a wall to retain the far bank. It is recommended that Members approve the allocation of funds from the Crematoriums Reserves to cover the costs of this work.

Another popular feature of the Woodland Walk is the flower bed set aside for Pond Markers. These memorials are made of marble with a void in which the cremated remains are placed with a commemorative plaque also fixed.

Those memorials have proved popular since being introduced and there is now very limited space left available. An area has been identified for the creation of another area where 70 new pond markers can be situated near to the pond and brook. A quotation of £12,117 has been obtained to create this area which would include foundation, walls and cobbles and access path. It is recommended that Members approve the allocation of funds from the Crematorium reserves to cover the cost of this work.

#### **4.0 Temporary Closure of Nearby Crematorium**

Sheffield City Council are temporarily closing City Road Crematorium, for a period of 6-7 months to proceed with planned cremator replacement works and additional necessary repairs to the building.

The City Council operates another Crematorium and there is also another Private Crematorium in the City. However, it is plausible that at times during the Winter months, the demand for cremation services may lead to Funeral Directors seeking the services of neighbouring Crematoria such as Chesterfield and District.

#### **5.0 Annual Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey**

Members will recall that each year, the Crematorium contacts all stakeholders including Funeral Directors, Ministers and Celebrants asking for their feedback, comments and suggestions on the services provided at the Crematorium.

The summary of responses from the 2021 Survey is attached at Appendix A.

#### **6.0 Asbestos Removal Works**

Over the summer the Manager received a recommendation from the Lead Authorities Health and Safety Advisor regarding the removal and sealing of asbestos on site within the buildings in two areas – the Grounds Maintenance Yard/Building and the Basement Area.

The recommendation was based on a revised review of the risk and works were authorised to make safe.

The work was authorised and completed in September 2021.  
The cost of the work was £14,500.00.

## **7.0 FBCA Inspection**

The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities has a programme on inspection of the Crematoria in the UK.

An inspection took place on 9<sup>th</sup> June. It involved scrutinising 6 separate key areas of service delivery, through discussion and review of more than 80 points of interest.

A quote from the letter received from the FBCA after inspection said, *“the Inspector found an excellent level of service provision and did not feel it necessary to make any recommendations”*.

A compliance score of 96% or 430 points out of 450 was awarded.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 That the report, including the results from the Annual Satisfaction Survey be noted.
- 8.2 That a total of £21,000 be approved for use from the Crematorium Reserves for the development and repair of the pond and woodland walk area.

## **9.0 Reason for Recommendation**

- 9.1 To keep Members updated on the day-to-day operation of the Service.
- 9.2 To maintain the aesthetic value of the pond area for the future whilst preventing the collapse of the bank. The introduction of an additional pond marker area will

ensure that the crematorium can continue to provide popular options for the bereaved whilst creating an additional income stream.

**Ross Fawbert**  
**Bereavement Services Manager**