

REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 24th JUNE, 2021

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POTENTIAL CEMETERY SITES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update on the outcome of the recent search for new cemetery sites within the Borough of Pendle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee notes the content of the report.
2. That the Nelson cemetery allotments be confirmed as the site for the extension of the cemetery and that a further detailed report be submitted in due course on the proposal including phases, timescales and estimated costs of preparation.
3. The Committee agree to retain the annually renewed rental agreement at Ghyll and Barrowford enabling additional space to be recovered as required.
4. The Committee agree to the future development of lower field in Colne cemetery enabling additional space to be created as required.
5. The committee agree to future investigation into the possible use of Earby allotments for future burial usage.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure sufficient burial space is available for our future needs.

Introduction

On the 11th February 2021 the Corporate Director presented a report to the Policy and Resources Committee in order for the Committee to consider further the future of Nelson cemetery lodge and listed elements of Nelson cemetery.

Within the report a proposal to demolish the property to create additional burial plots was put forward. The report advised that the Committee had previously resolved against this action.

In response to the concerns raised regarding the remaining space within Nelson cemetery the Council asked Liberata to provide details of suitable sites within the Nelson area which would potentially meet the selection criteria for new cemeteries.

Liberata provided details of 8 possible sites, these being:

- Part of hard Platts, Hibson Road, Nelson
- Land off Halifax Road, Nelson (Former garden centre site)
- Cemetery allotments, Nelson
- Marsden Park Golf course
- Land off Carr Hall Road / Park Avenue Barrowford
- Land to east of Barrowford cemetery, off Colne Road Barrowford
- Land adjacent Schofield Mill, off Southfield Street, Nelson
- Land off Halifax Road/ Edge End Avenue, Nelson

Following receipt of the Liberata report Bereavement staff have inspected the sites completing assessments on their suitability against the cemetery selection criteria which covered size, topology, access, location and ground water protection.

Based upon the observations made the initial feedback places the sites in an order of preference for use. This being

- Cemetery allotments, Nelson
- Marsden Park Golf course
- Land off Halifax Road, Nelson (Former garden centre site)
- Land off Carr Hall Road / Park Avenue Barrowford
- Land off Halifax Road / Edge End Avenue Nelson

The remaining sites were dismissed due to access and ground water protection.

It is the recommendation of the Bereavement team that further investigation into the use of the cemetery allotments be made whilst we still have sufficient space within the cemetery to provide 5 years of space for Muslim vaults.

Further to the review of facilities for Nelson Officers have revisited arrangements at Earby, Salterforth, Ghyll Meadow's, Barrowford and Colne cemeteries.

Officers advise Colne Cemetery at the pre pandemic rate has enough room for the next 6 years with additional allocated space already identified for a future extension

Barrowford Cemetery at the pre pandemic rate has enough room for the next 4 years with additional allocated space already identified for a future extension

Earby Cemetery at the pre pandemic rate has enough room for the next 9 years. The additional space that was planned for an extension is the current allotment site adjoining Earby Cemetery

Ghyll Cemetery at the pre pandemic rate room has enough room for the next 3-4 years with additional allocated space already identified for a future extension

Salterforth Cemetery at the pre pandemic rate room for the next 40+ years

Differing from other cemeteries we found Salterforth did not experience the same level of demand as other cemeteries and based on demands against usage we found there is currently no need to seek additional space within this area at this time.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report.

Financial: None arising directly from this report.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from the report

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Liberata report

Appendix 2 - cemetery site guidance

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS – None