

REPORT FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

TO: NELSON BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE

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FOR INFORMATION

NELSON CEMETERY WORKS TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SURFACE WATER FLOODING WITHIN THE CEMETERY GROUNDS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the committee with an overview on the work that has been undertaken to reduce the risk of flooding within Walton Lane cemetery.

ISSUE

1. At the Committee's meeting held on the 5th September 2022 the Environmental Services Manager was requested to submit a report to the Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley Committee addressing any flooding problems at Nelson cemetery along with any solutions.
2. Nelson cemetery was opened by in 1895. The cemetery is built upon land that lays to the left side of Walton Lane in Nelson. The site is situated on what was the Lancashire Coal Fields and the land is made up of slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soil.
3. Historically the site has suffered from poor drainage resulting at times in pockets of surface water remaining present to the lower parts of the site following rainfall.
4. Members and Officers are aware there have been historical concerns about water ingress into Muslim Vaults and standing surface water to the lower sections of the cemetery.
5. To improve the sites drainage Officers involved in the delivery of bereavement services have worked with the Council's engineers and Environmental Services sub-contractors to improve land drainage around both areas of the site.
6. Improvements have included the following:
 - Creation of new drainage channels to the side of the road running through the lower section of the cemetery

- Creation of drainage channels running through the section of the cemetery reserved for Muslim Burials
- Provision of drainage channels and a soak away below the clay layer of the cemetery within the areas of poorer drainage.
- Introduction of a stone filled soak away.
- Creation of a stone filled drainage channel which runs along the head of each Muslim Vault.
- Drainage pipe installed to the foot of each Muslim Vault.

7. Drainage improvement works were completed in February and March of this year as a part of our ongoing efforts to improve the sites drainage system.

8. Drainage systems will continue to be laid within the area of the Muslim Vaults as and when new vaults are purchased and installed.

9. Officers shall continue to monitor the site however early indications are that the revised drainage system is working and we are noticeably seeing an improvement to the condition of the land around the Muslim vaults and to the lower part of the cemetery.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report

Financial: Increased costs equating to £100.00 per vault is being currently absorbed by Environmental Services and £1776.00 spent on the purchase of stone for drainage

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising from this 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

Photographs showing drainage works taking place at (locations)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None