

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: NEW CARRIDEN CEMETERY, BO'NESS
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 30th SEPTEMBER 2014
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the actions being taken in regard to matters raised in relation to New Carriden Cemetery, Bo'ness. The issues were highlighted in a motion to the meeting of Falkirk Council on 25 June 2014.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The cemetery was constructed in 2009 to satisfy planning conditions which arose from the major housing development at The Drum, Bo'ness. An image of the cemetery is attached in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The developer had provided Falkirk Council with the cemetery land and associated infrastructure, including the access road, drainage systems and boundary fencing.
- 2.3 The first interment within the new cemetery took place in January 2010.
- 2.4 A number of issues have been raised recently regarding some aspects of the infrastructure within the cemetery (boundary fences, buildings, water supply etc), along with some operational issues.

3. ISSUES RAISED

- 3.1 The issues that have been raised are listed below:

Boundary treatment – It had been highlighted that mourners attending a funeral are exposed to traffic noise and are clearly visible to passing motorists, especially articulated vehicles driving up and down Carriden Brae. The burial section currently in use within the cemetery is closest to the boundary with Carriden Brae. At present there is a 1.2 m high timber slatted fence with laurel shrubs planted along the majority of its length.

Road kerbs – There are no road kerbs in situ along the grass edge where interments are currently being carried out. As such, surface water from the road surface runs onto the grass burial space which makes the ground underfoot wet and difficult for mourners and visitors to access.

Welfare/storage facility – There is an on site metal welfare/storage facility close to the entrance which is showing signs of wear with discolouration of the side panels. It's present condition and appearance is having an adverse effect on the aesthetics of the burial ground.

Grass cutting operations – It has been highlighted that when grass cutting operations are carried out in the cemetery, especially when it has been raining, grass arising's from mowers and trimmers can be thrown up on to adjacent memorial headstones. When it is wet this can cause the grass arising's to stick to the memorial headstones leaving them unsightly.

Water tap – It has been highlighted that on occasions the water tap on site does not work. This leads to visitors not being able to obtain water for topping up flower vases.

Deposits of soil – It was noted that there have been piles of soil deposited along the northern road edge of the cemetery. These deposits of soil have started to become overgrown with weeds and have a negative impact on the appearance of the cemetery.

4. ACTIONS TAKEN

Boundary Treatment

- 4.1 It has been suggested that a stone wall be constructed along the eastern boundary which is adjacent to Carriden Brae to help screen and reduce the noise levels experienced from vehicular traffic. The cost to design and construct a wall of the length and height required would be approximately £30k-£40k. There is currently no revenue or capital budget provision for such works.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the existing laurel hedge is extended along the entire length of the existing timber fence on the eastern boundary of the cemetery. Through time this will provide a suitable evergreen screen to reduce noise and afford the users of the cemetery the privacy they require.
- 4.3 It is also anticipated that the next section of the cemetery to be utilised for interments will be located towards the centre of the cemetery which will increase the distance between Carriden Brae and the burial space thereby reducing the level of disturbance of future interments.

Road Kerbs

- 4.4 A road kerb edge to prevent surface water run off onto the grass burial space has now been installed on the section of road highlighted as a problem. This is now having a positive effect of directing surface water down the road to the on site drainage system.

Welfare/Storage Facility

- 4.5 The on site welfare /storage facilities have water discolouration on the side of the metal panels.

It was suggested a screen or timber fence be erected in front of the facility however due to the height of the building and it being on the highest ground in the cemetery the fence would need to be a minimum height of 3m. We are currently awaiting a quotation to determine the costs for the supply and construction of this fence. Once the costs of fencing have been received, consideration will be given to funding the work from the current years Bereavement Services revenue budget. Should the costs of the fencing not be able to be met from current budgets, alternative measures to improve the aesthetics of the facility will be explored.

Grass Cutting Operations

- 4.6 In regard to the grass cutting operations and arising's falling on to memorial headstones, this issue has been highlighted to our operational staff and the impact it has on families who have loved one's interred within this cemetery. Instructions have been issued to our operatives to ensure the operation of grass cutting machinery directs arising's away from memorial headstones.

Water Tap

- 4.7 Following notification of problems with the water tap, regular inspections have been undertaken and at each inspection the tap has found to be working satisfactory.

Soil Deposits

- 4.8 The deposits of soil have now been removed and have been spread evenly out over the existing grass verge and will be over sown with grass seed. All future excess soil will be treated in this manner.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Executive is invited to:-

- 5.1 **Note the actions and work undertaken to date in New Carriden cemetery, Bo'ness.**

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Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services

Date: 27 August 2014

Contact Officers: David Crighton (501107); Wraight Shepherd (504617)

APPENDIX

1. Image of New Carriden Cemetery, Bo'ness

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Motion to Falkirk Council 25th June 2014