

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

### Clearing Cemeteries of Personal Memorials

#### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposal of clearing personal memorials which have accumulated over the years within all of the Council's cemeteries.

#### 2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to NOTE the intention to clear all personal memorials as detailed in this report.**

#### 3. Detail

Bramcote Bereavement Services have carried out a review of the current management arrangements of the Council's cemeteries and identified an issue with personal memorials. The Council's Cemeteries Rules and Regulations state that "It is Council policy that no item of whatever description is allowed to be placed upon the actual grave space in a lawned area". This is in order to maintain a safe environment for both employees of the Council and visitors to the cemeteries. The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management also states "Proper choice and proper control of unauthorised memorials through the management rules and regulations is essential to the effective long-term control over memorial safety".

Whilst most families, friends and visitors adhere to the rules and regulations a number of personal memorials are appearing. Particularly this was the case during the pandemic when the monitoring of graves was impacted.

More details regarding the difficulties experienced as a result of the current situation is provided in **Appendix 1**.

It is important for the health and safety of employees and visitors, and the general maintenance of the cemeteries that the rules and regulations are enforced.

The goal is to provide a safer environment and a more attractive cemetery for families to visit.

Further information is provided within the report at **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3** to show signage to be placed on plots prior to action, while **Appendix 4** includes a letter that grave owners will receive outlining the details of the approach.

4. Key Decision

The location of cemeteries will effect individuals within communities who visit and tend to family graves in several Wards in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not Applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no budget implications to consider with any operational costs being met from within existing resources.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not Applicable.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not Applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not Applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.