

Appendix 2

Background Information

During a recent visit to Beeston Cemetery it was noted that some of the historical grave memorials have fallen into disrepair, for example, the kerb sets had become disconnected and in some examples had shifted from their original intended location due to poor foundations, the grave settling over time or another associated reason.

While some may consider this type of issue to be a reasonable and acceptable part of historical graves, others may feel that a degree of maintenance is appropriate.

In the example of Beeston Cemetery, a number of images are provided below to give Members an understanding of the range of issues that exist.

Members are asked to consider whether a budget should be created to address the issues highlighted or whether the deterioration presented in the images is reasonable given the age of the memorials. Whilst repair might be considered appropriate, in areas where the appearance of the cemetery requires consideration e.g. main driveway, an authority is not obliged to spend public money on private property.

**Option 1**

Should Members wish to repair historical grave memorials in Beeston Cemetery areas such as along the main driveway a budget of £10,000 is considered necessary. Other Cemeteries will incur additional costs. Members will note that this option will entail using tax payer's resources on something the Council does not have an obligation to undertake.

Option 2

If Members decided that instead of repair, the grave is simply tidied by stacking the kerbs and neatening the grave space. It is estimated that for Beeston Cemetery an initial budget of £3,000 is considered necessary. Other Cemeteries will incur additional costs. Members will note that this option will entail using tax payer's resources on something the Council does not have an obligation to undertake.

Option 3

Members accept that deterioration occurs and where the aesthetics of the grave in question is the only concern, the graves remains in its natural state.