

Report of the Strategic Director

CAPACITY FOR BURIALS AT CEMETERIES AND CHURCHYARDS1. Purpose of report

To update Members as to the capacity for new burials at the various cemeteries and churchyards within the borough and consider the options available.

2. Background

Broxtowe Borough Council owns and operates 5 cemeteries in the borough:

Beeston, Chilwell, Eastwood, Kimberley, Stapleford

There is one additional cemetery in Nuthall managed by the Parish Council.

There are also 4 churchyards which are still used for burials. These are at:

Brinsley, Greasley, Strelley and Trowell.

Further detail regarding the capacity of the 10 sites for new burials is provided in Appendix 1. The short, medium and long term options available at each site are detailed at Appendix 2 with an assessment of options for Stapleford Cemetery in Appendix 3.

3. Financial Implications

At this stage there are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Indicative costs relating to a possible extension at Stapleford Cemetery are provided in Appendix 3.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the short, medium and long term capacities at the 10 burial grounds in Broxtowe and RESOLVE to:

- 1) Cease using Beeston Cemetery for new burials once all of the remaining grave spaces have been allocated and utilise Chilwell Cemetery as the alternative.**
- 2) Enter into initial negotiations with the owners of the land to the east of Stapleford Cemetery with regards to a price for the land and a potential timescale to undertake a possible extension of the burial ground.**

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Cemetery CapacityBeeston

The cemetery opened in 1884 and is now nearly full for new burials. In recent years various initiatives have been undertaken to extend its capacity. This has been achieved by removing some overgrown trees and vegetation and by doing ground survey work to check for previously unused land which had in the past been considered unsuitable for burials due to the absence of historical burial records. A final area of the cemetery has been made available in the north/west corner by felling some trees that were originally planted as a tree nursery for the Council. This was done in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation to provide additional burial capacity. This work has created 80 new burial spaces.

Chilwell

The cemetery opened in 1934 and was extended in 2015 to create a dedicated area for Muslim burials. At the present time there is space for 60 new burials in the original cemetery and space for 280 burials in the Muslim cemetery. In addition the cemetery extension in 2015 provided the potential for a further 450 burials. Approximately 20% of this land is available to use immediately with access from the existing roadway providing around 90 burial spaces. When Beeston cemetery closes for new burials, Chilwell cemetery will provide the nearest alternative in the Borough.

Eastwood

The cemetery was opened in 1889 and was extended in the 1970s with an area of land to the south/west of Cemetery Walk. This large extension has a full network of paths and has the capacity for up to 120 new graves.

Kimberley

The cemetery was opened in 1883 and has been extended in various phases since the 1980s with a gradual change from temporary allotment land to new burial ground. The latest phase now provides capacity for an additional 360 graves.

Nuthall

The cemetery was opened in the 1930s when St Patrick's Church in Nuthall was full. It is owned and managed by Nuthall Parish Council with the Borough Council undertaking the grave digging function on their behalf. There are approximately 125 new graves available with the potential to extend onto adjacent land also in the ownership of the Parish Council but currently used as arable farm land. This has the potential for up to 800 additional grave spaces but would require significant capital investment to install the necessary infrastructure.

Stapleford

The cemetery was opened in 1881. Its capacity was doubled with a large extension in the period between the first and second world wars. The site has approximately 90 new graves spaces available with no realistic on site options to increase capacity. Based on current usage rates the cemetery will be full by 2029. It is therefore necessary to consider the options for the future use of this site. These are detailed in Appendix 3.

Churchyard Capacity

Brinsley

The burial ground extension at St James the Great Church was opened in the early 1990s when the churchyard was classified a closed churchyard. The extension is managed by the church and the diocese. There are approximately 45 new grave spaces available with the potential to extend the area into adjacent grazing land owned by the Borough Council.

Greasley

The current burial ground extension was opened in the early 1990s when the original extension area was classified as a closed churchyard. The extension is managed by the church and the diocese. There are approximately 175 new grave spaces available with the potential to extend the area into adjacent arable farm land.

Strelley

The burial ground at All Saints Church was extended in the early 1970's. It is managed by the church and the diocese. There is capacity in excess of 100 spaces for new graves

Trowell

The burial ground at St Helen's Church was extended some time after the First World War. It is managed by the church and the diocese. There is limited space for new graves with the potential to clear some overgrown land to increase short to medium term capacity. There is no real potential to extend the churchyard and when full the likely scenario is that it will become a closed churchyard.

APPENDIX 2

Options Available

Detailed below are the short, medium and long term scenarios on a site by site basis. The projected lifespan of the cemeteries and churchyards does not allow for any significant increase in burial numbers as a result of COVID-19. At the present time burial numbers have shown a slight increase but not the sort of differential seen at the Crematorium.

| CEMETERY | NO. OF GRAVE SPACES AVAILABLE | APPROX. NO. OF BURIALS PER YEAR BASED ON LAST 5 YEARS | PROJECTED LIFESPAN OF CEMETERY | SHORT TERM 1-3 YEARS | MEDIUM TERM 3-8 YEARS | LONG TERM 8 YEARS PLUS |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Beeston | 80 | 26 | 3 years | Utilise recently created area for new burials | Formerly close cemetery for new burials and offer Chilwell Cemetery as alternative | Continue to use Chilwell Cemetery |
| Chilwell | 60 in existing cemetery plus 90 in new extension. Total 150 | 8 | 19 years. This could potentially be reduced to 10 years when Beeston Cemetery closes for new burials | Continue to use the existing cemetery for new burials | Start to use the new extension working from the existing road network. The number of burials per year is likely to increase with the closure of Beeston Cemetery for new burials | Look to complete the phase 2 extension with additional tarmac surfaced paths |
| Chilwell – Muslim section | 280 | To date there have been no Muslim burials in this section | Until a usage pattern for the cemetery is established no lifespan can be forecast | It is expected that the area will start to be used. When this happens it is likely to increase in popularity | No medium term capacity issues are anticipated | No long term capacity issues are anticipated. There is potential to replicate the original extension on adjacent land in Council ownership currently used for horse grazing to the south of this area. |
| Eastwood | 150 | 8 | 19 years | No capacity issues | No capacity issues | No capacity issues. Potential for alternative site should Greasley Churchyard be full |

| CEMETERY | NO. OF GRAVE SPACES AVAILABLE | APPROX. NO. OF BURIALS PER YEAR BASED ON LAST 5 YEARS | PROJECTED LIFESPAN OF CEMETERY | SHORT TERM 1-3 YEARS | MEDIUM TERM 3-8 YEARS | LONG TERM 8 YEARS PLUS |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Kimberley | 360 | 8 | 45 years | No capacity issues | No capacity issues | No capacity issues. Potential for alternative site should Greasley Churchyard be full |
| Nuthall | 125 | 8 | 16 years | No capacity issues | No capacity issues | No capacity issues. In the very long term potential to extend into adjacent land |
| Stapleford | 90 | 10 | 9 years | Continue to explore options to extend the cemetery into adjacent farm land. See Appendix 3 | If the decision is taken to extend the cemetery undertake appropriate infrastructure works | This will be based on medium term decision for the cemetery |
| CHURCH YARD | NO. OF GRAVE SPACES AVAILABLE | APPROX. NO. OF BURIALS PER YEAR BASED ON LAST 5 YEARS | PROJECTED LIFESPAN OF CEMETERY | SHORT TERM 1-3 YEARS | MEDIUM TERM 3-8 YEARS | LONG TERM 8 YEARS PLUS |
| Greasley | 175 | 20 | 9 years | No capacity issues | Start to explore costs/options to potentially extend the cemetery into adjacent arable farm land | This will be based on medium term decision for the cemetery |
| Brinsley | 45 | 5 | 9 | No capacity issues | No capacity issues | Consider extending into adjacent Broxtowe owned grazing land working with the church |
| Trowell | 10 | 2 | 5 | Look at the possibility of clearing back vegetation to increase short and medium term capacity | As short term | The likely scenario is that the church will become a closed churchyard with no options to extend into adjacent land |
| Strelley | 100 plus | 2 | 50 year's plus | No capacity issues | No capacity issues | No capacity issues |