

**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive**

**POTENTIAL FOR OTHER SERVICES - SANDWELL CREMATORIUM**

1. Purpose of report

To provide the Joint Committee with information on some of the other services provided by Sandwell Crematorium in the West Midlands.

2. Background and Detail

Committee will recall discussing other possible services for Bramcote Crematorium at its meeting of 25 June 2020. Reference was made to the diverse range of services provided at Sandwell Crematorium and Committee requested further information.

Sandwell Crematorium is owned and operated by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and is a very diverse crematorium. Facilities provided include: -

- low cost funerals
- wake facilities (on site and crematorium-operated)
- a café (on site but privately-operated)
- pet cremation (off site) and memorials (on site)

Further details are given in the appendix.

3. Financial implications

**Recommendation**

**The Joint Committee is asked to NOTE the report.**

Background papers

Nil

**APPENDIX**

The Sandwell Funeral Service - a low cost funeral

This is a low cost funeral service with a dignified cremation at one of Sandwell's two crematoria costing £1,643. The service was first introduced in October 2016.

This includes:

- a coffin
- a funeral service with a minister
- all crematorium and doctor's fees
- music of your choice.

The loved one is taken into the care of Sandwell's partner Trinity Funeral Services Limited (a private funeral director) and the funeral service can be held at either crematorium. It is aimed at families and individuals who prefer a simple ceremony without the use of a hearse.

Wake facilities

The Sandwell Crematorium wake facility opened on site in 2015 at a cost of £340,000 and employs two staff. It seats 80 persons and has a dedicated kitchen and toilets. It also required the provision of an additional 22 on site car parking spaces.



Photograph source: Sandwell Council website

**Arrange a wake  
at Sandwell Valley Crematorium**



Courtyard Café (opened 2010)

*“A family run Cafe in the heart of Sandwell Valley Crematorium. Serving hot and cold food and drinks to eat in or take away.*

*Reasonable prices and a lovely peaceful atmosphere.*

*Ideal for a quiet cup of tea whilst visiting a memorial, to pass the time whilst waiting for a service, or just to pop in for lunch and enjoy the serenity..*

*Orders can be phoned or emailed through and collected if you're in a rush, or we do our best to serve you as soon as possible.”*

<https://thecourtyardcafe.weebly.com/>



Photograph source: Birmingham Mail website



Photograph source: Trip Advisor

### Pet memorial garden at Sandwell Valley Crematorium

Sandwell offers a pet memorial service, but the actual cremation of the pet is not part of the service. The dedicated pet memorial garden is illustrated below:



Photograph source: Sandwell Council website

## **Our services**

### **Burials**

Choose from either an individual burial or a burial of ashes.

### **Scattering**

We have a dedicated area for families to scatter the ashes of their pets.

### **Memorials**

If you have chosen a burial you can choose to get a headstone memorial from us. Headstones for our Pet Memorial Garden must be purchased through our office.

### **Keepsakes and jewellery**

You may wish to take a small amount of your pet's ashes home with you. We have a variety of different urns and keepsakes that you can choose from.

We also offer keepsake jewellery which is specially designed to hold a small amount of your beloved pet's ashes.

## **Prices**

### **Burials - in an individual plot**

- Small £141
- Medium £196
- Large £293

### **Burial memorials**

- Memorial headstone (including an inscription of your choice) £423
- Plot marker £24

### **Scattering ashes**

- Ashes scattering (including a small inscribed plaque) £95
- Scattering (including a large inscribed plaque) £105

### **Above ground ashes**

- Leaf memorial (medium including urn) £423
- Leaf memorial (large including urn) £529