

To consider memorial sizes for cemetery extension

The ashes plot memorials in the cemetery extension are headstones with no specification of width except to state they cannot exceed the width of the plot. When planning interments a measurement is used as a standard (this is 18" between plot centres in the GR sections where a 12" memorial tablet is permitted) therefore a specified plot width would assist with planning interments and associated memorials.

Section 17 of the regulations state "Headstones on graves where an interment of cremated remains has taken place, must not exceed 60cm, nor be less than 30cm in height; must not exceed 15cm, nor be less than 8cm in thickness.

The base of a memorial must not exceed 8cm in height, nor exceed 15cm in depth, nor exceed the width of the plot, except on private plots."

At present there is one ashes interment in the extension and the memorial has been approved at 21" x 14" x 3" with a base 3" x 16" x 6", this sets the plot width at 16" (approx. 40cm).

It should also be taken into account that, in future, if a memorial becomes unsafe it will be laid down so the height of the headstone could hinder maintenance in that area.

To consider Garden of Remembrance for Cemetery extension

We only have 16 spaces left in the Lower Garden of Remembrance (this section was opened in 2017 with 30 plots) and when I have explained options to people looking for ashes spaces the preference seems to be for a traditional garden of remembrance style interment with a flat tablet.

There is a significant difference in cost between a memorial tablet and a headstone.

Enquiries to a local stonemason revealed a flat tablet starts from £320.00 plus VAT, plus lettering (VAT). A small headstone (headstone 18" x 13" x 3" with base 3" x 15.5" x 6") is approximately £700.00 plus VAT, plus lettering, VAT.

Should consideration be given to preparing or just deciding on an area that could be a Garden of Remembrance in the cemetery extension?

To consider request for memorial bench for lower cemetery

In February 2020 a visitor to the office requested consideration for a bench to be placed near a grave space in CB section. Back in February they were going to let me know if they wanted to go ahead and I advised the request would go to the April meeting. With Covid the matter was not pursued and I have now heard again from Mr Fox, sadly advising that his wife has passed away but he would like to continue with their plan for the memorial bench.

I guess we need to review the area to see if there is room for a bench but I hope we can accommodate something.

JdG

23.11.20