

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

## **Crematorium Matters – Manager’s Report**

### **Update from Previous Minutes**

#### **Solar Panels**

Staff changes within the North Devon Council surveyor’s department may exacerbate the covid delays in investigating this and other projects.

### **Covid Crisis Update**

The number of mourners is now set at 30 (statutory limit) which is unlikely to change in the near future.

Post-funeral events are limited to 15 people with a local decision that a maximum of 6 people are allowed for a witnessed burial of ashes (restrictions due to narrow paths).

Government legislation in early October allowed a person confirmed as having the Covid19 virus to travel to attend the funeral of a close relative. Following legal advice and having consulted with the Joint Committee chair, it was decided to decline access to the crematorium as it severely breached the entire safety regime of the site and placed the staff and elderly mourners in particular at great risk.

Screens have been added to the lectern and stand-alone (family eulogy) microphone to enhance the protection afforded by the current 2-metre distancing.

Some internal staff distancing measures have also been introduced (additional computer, moving a shared printer, an additional rest room) to ensure that in the event a staff member tests positive the entire team would not be required to self-isolate.

Currently any second wave is expected to peak in January/February but the projected ‘reasonable worst case’ projections are comfortably within the crematorium’s capacity.

The crematorium has not had any Covid related funerals for over 18 weeks (report submitted end October 2020).

### **Achievements**

An entire site/building survey is being conducted in mid-November for the first time since 1966. This will assist with any future works.

### **Metals Recycling Charity Award**

Clarity has been nominated for the next award (January 2021) as previously reported.

Subsequent nomination list:

**Calvert Trust**  
**Over and Above (Cancer & Wellbeing Centre)**  
**Families in Grief**  
**North Devon Children’s Holiday Foundation**  
**North Devon Hospice**

**Cruse  
Children's Hospice SW  
Over and Above (North Devon Hospital – Maternity Unit Bereavement Suite)  
Clarity**

No further additions to be considered prior to February 2022.

## **Cremation Figures**

	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>Previous 5 Year Average</b>
<b>April</b>	109	102	161	125	139	163	117	150	121	176	<b>138</b>
<b>May</b>	111	123	117	135	118	126	138	136	137	136	<b>131</b>
<b>June</b>	129	116	102	123	143	125	129	127	127	130	<b>130</b>
<b>July</b>	107	111	121	106	111	126	142	133	128	136	<b>128</b>
<b>Aug</b>	116	106	117	100	109	114	120	106	118	118	<b>113</b>
<b>Sept</b>	88	104	107	122	127	121	127	106	114	121	<b>119</b>
<b>Oct</b>	102	101	98	125	140	127	137	132	129	121	<b>133</b>
<b>Nov</b>	116	129	96	120	108	157	135	127	115		<b>128</b>
<b>Dec</b>	88	100	98	120	128	123	131	119	113		<b>123</b>
<b>Jan</b>	143	159	164	142	131	158	182	169	147		<b>157</b>
<b>Feb</b>	127	121	116	154	136	137	175	143	133		<b>145</b>
<b>Mar</b>	132	144	127	157	151	162	164	145	143		<b>153</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>1416</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1639</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>1593</b>	<b>1525</b>		<b>1599</b>

The current number of services for the last 12 months is within the variance range of the previous 5 years (position 3/5).

## **Garden Improvements 2020/21**

The path works will be commenced in week 3 of November. Half of the hedge removal works have been undertaken and the fencing works arranged.

## **Larkbear Development – Traffic Management**

Traffic order is being drafted but the road layout/restrictions associated with it are not known. Once published the manager will report to members of the Joint Committee and engage in formal consultation process. The interests of mourners attending a service and the importance of the site as a local residents' resource will be uppermost in any representations.