

5th February 2021

Crematorium Matters – Manager’s Report

Covid Crisis Update

The number of mourners permitted remains at 30, unchanged by the lockdown. Post-funeral events are now limited to 6 people (from 15).

The crematorium continues to operate without need for any measures to provide additional service times.

Competition & Markets Authority (CMA) Funerals Market Investigation

The CMA have produced their final report regarding both funeral directors and crematoria. The report states that local authority crematoria fee are higher than should be expected (£80-£170) as a result of an average 6% increase over the last 10 years. Privately run crematoria fees were higher still.

The annual review of surrounding crematoria’s pricing demonstrates that, despite significant upgrading of facilities, North Devon’s fees are about £285 lower than nearby privately run crematoria and over £100 lower than the nearest local authority Crematorium (no organist).

The report encourages Local Authorities to enter into a tendering process with local funeral providers to offer a fixed (reduced) cost funeral service.

Achievements

Car park re-covered in new stone

Bulk materials area cleared

Metals Recycling Charity Award

Clarity has been awarded £10,000 (paid direct December 2020). The ‘formal cheque presentation’ has not yet taken place.

The Calvert Trust (Exmoor) has been proposed for the next award (due June 2021).

Subsequent nomination list:

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)

No further additions to be considered prior to February 2022.

Cremation Figures

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Previous 5 Year Average
April	109	102	161	125	139	163	117	150	121	176	138
May	111	123	117	135	118	126	138	136	137	136	131
June	129	116	102	123	143	125	129	127	127	130	130
July	107	111	121	106	111	126	142	133	128	136	128
Aug	116	106	117	100	109	114	120	106	118	118	113
Sept	88	104	107	122	127	121	127	106	114	121	119
Oct	102	101	98	125	140	127	137	132	129	120	133
Nov	116	129	96	120	108	157	135	127	115	149	128
Dec	88	100	98	120	128	123	131	119	113	141	123
Jan	143	159	164	142	131	158	182	169	147	174	157
Feb	127	121	116	154	136	137	175	143	133		145
Mar	132	144	127	157	151	162	164	145	143		153
Total	1368	1416	1424	1529	1541	1639	1697	1593	1525	1700E	1599

Garden Improvements

Completed: Path works, half the hedge removal.

Outstanding works ordered: fencing, ground preparation & metal supports for 'sail' weather protection outside Rowan Chapel.

Outstanding (not ordered): Remainder hedge works, sails, new hedges. It is anticipated these will be ordered shortly.

A limited program of improvements (linking resin paths, bulk material area fence and hedge replacement works) is proposed for 2021/22.

Larkbear Development – Traffic Management

Traffic order is being drafted to move the bus gate to Old Torrington Road and enable it to be signed for camera-enforcement rather than relying on physical restrictions. There does not seem to be any intention to exempt any funeral related traffic or restrict times of operation. If implemented in that form all crematorium traffic will have to use Gratton Way and the mini-roundabout at Sainsbury together with the additional residential and construction traffic. The consequences of this are of significant concern. Once published there will be a consultation process which it is intended to participate in.