

Friday 4th November 2022

Crematorium Matters – Manager’s Report

Metals Recycling Charity Award

Nominations have just been sought for the next award with nominations required by 17th March 2023, suggesting one ‘round’ has been deleted. It is unclear if this will affect the amount of the next award. North Devon Hospice are currently the next anticipated nominee in line with the current rota:

North Devon Hospice
Cruse
Children’s Hospice SW
Families in Grief

Over and Above have responded to the Joint Committee’s request for more detail regarding their application to be considered for an award under the scheme:

“In Spring/Summer 2023 North Devon District Hospital is undertaking a major £800k redevelopment to its 20+ year old mortuary facilities which includes a family facility. We would like to ask ICCM members to support us with the refurbishment of this family facility element which is now very outdated. This element has been costed at approximately £20,000 plus around £4,500 towards furniture, soft furnishings, crockery and utensils, literature and signage.

657 people passed away at North Devon District Hospital and South Molton Community Hospital (almost 13 deaths per week) in 2021 and the team in the bereavement suite offer support to those families, which includes offering advice and guidance sensitively to relatives and friends to help them through the forthcoming days and weeks of their bereavement offering practical and consolation support at both North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple and South Molton Community Hospital.

Bereavement can be a very distressing time in the lives of families and friends and it is important that we help the families come to terms with their loss in a quiet, comfortable and caring surrounding with a friendly face and a cup of tea. The team also offer wide support and information answering any questions the family may have on arranging the funeral, the medical examiner service, post mortem examinations, tissue donation, hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care, registering the death, how to let people know about the death, stopping junk mail to the recently deceased, probate and legal advice and so much more.

In the longer term, the Bereavement Suite team also wants to access additional bereavement courses funded through “Over and Above” to enable them to support the family beyond that which the NHS can provide funding for. If this would permit our retention on a permanent basis we are confident that we would be able to allocate any funds specifically towards bereavement projects”

Request To Fund Litter Bin

Councillor David Knight (Roundswell Ward) has emailed the following request: *‘There is a continuous problem of littering outside the Crematorium and in the immediate area opposite and I believe a bin in this position would give the public the opportunity to change their behaviour.*

Please could the Crematorium committee consider funding the installation of a bin and facilitate the collections.'

I have previously indicated a willingness to site a bin but without commitment to funding installation or collections as there is no suggestion that the crematorium is the source of the litter.

Cremation Figures

	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
April	161	125	139	163	117	150	121	174	124	133
May	117	135	118	126	138	136	137	136	103	146
June	102	123	143	125	129	127	127	126	110	134
July	121	106	111	126	142	133	128	136	123	110
Aug	117	100	109	114	120	106	118	118	116	133
Sept	107	122	127	121	127	106	114	121	131	138
Oct	98	125	140	127	137	132	129	120	119	124E
Nov	96	120	108	157	135	127	115	149	131	
Dec	98	120	128	123	131	119	113	141	128	
Jan	164	142	131	158	182	169	147	176	140	
Feb	116	154	136	137	175	143	133	136	123	
Mar	127	157	151	162	164	145	143	141	159	
Total	1424	1529	1541	1639	1697	1593	1525	1674	1507	

Damage to Crematorium

Devon & Cornwall Police have indicated that two suspects are to be interviewed. A loss assessor is reviewing the damage repair costs with a view to seeking an insurance settlement.

Phase B Works (Garage Store/Memorial Room)

The deadline for tender submissions is 31st October. It is intended to make a decision by 15th November with a view to works commencing by the end of January 2023.

Christmas Working

The crematorium will remain open for services except for weekends and Bank Holidays.

Medical Referee

National implementation of the Medical Examiner role has been set for 1st April 2023, eliminating the Medical Referee Role save for an as yet unspecified period of retaining the post in a consulting basis to iron out any 'teething issues'. The process for authorisation of Cremations has not yet been announced but it is anticipated the role will fall to the Crematorium Manager/Registrar.