



Community Services

Penn Road Cemetery

Consultation Report

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the preparation for the submission of the planning application for the Penn Road Cemetery a consultation process was held during October 2018. This consultation was designed to gain the views and opinions of local residents and other interested parties regarding the proposed new Cemetery.

2 Consultation Objective

The aim of the consultation was to open a dialogue with local residents, stakeholders and any other interested parties. We aimed to gain information on:

- Opinions on the proposed design and layout of the Cemetery;
- A chance to receive feedback from residents regarding the Cemetery proposal.

3 Consultation Methodology

3.1 *Methods*

A number of methods were used during the Consultation process.

Firstly, two public consultations were held on the 16th and 25th October in Hazlemere and High Wycombe respectively. Overall these were well attended with approximately 80 people attending the two events. At these events proposed designs and layout of the Cemetery were available to view and members of the Project Team and Planning Consultancy firm were on hand to speak to residents and explain the designs. A questionnaire was provided for people to complete if they wished. A total of 33 questionnaires were completed during the two public consultations.

In addition, an online consultation was held for two weeks in October enabling people to provide their comments online if they were unable to attend the public consultations. A total of 16 responses were received via the online consultation.

Finally a mail drop was conducted to all residents within the immediate vicinity of the proposed Cemetery providing a contact email address for the Project Manager to enable email or written communication should people find this easier. A total of 9 responses were received either via email or letter.

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3.2 Response Rate

In total 58 responses were received.

4 Findings & Responses

A review of the 58 responses identified some frequently raised concerns. These are listed below:

Traffic on Penn Road/A404

Concerns were raised about increased traffic flow and increased congestion, particularly at peak times.

Response: As part of the plan for the proposed cemetery, funerals will not be conducted before 10am or after 3pm during term time or 4pm during school holidays (dependent on the time of year and sunset). This should alleviate any additional congestion during peak time along the A404/Penn Road.

Queensway traffic and access

Queries were raised about the use of the Queensway road in relation to the Cemetery.

Response: The project team confirmed that the Queensway road was not to be an access road for visitors to the site. However, it may be used as an egress/exit point for the hearse and funeral cortege for particularly large funerals. It may also be used as an egress/exit point for plant maintenance/site vehicles as it is currently.

Car Park & Parking Spaces

Queries were raised over the sufficiency of car parking spaces for the site.

Response: Analysis conducted by the Planning Consultants, Cemetery Development Services have stated that 32 parking spaces will be sufficient for the cemetery. However, should the need arise, the gates linking the car park to the Cemetery can be opened for a large funeral to enable people attending the funeral to park on the interior roadway within the Cemetery. This should negate the need for people to park outside of the Cemetery boundaries.

Woodland Features/Loss of Public Space

Questions were asked regarding the loss of woodland features.

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Response: The Council will look to improve and strengthen the hedgerows and to provide a woodland walk aspect at the rear of the perimeter to increase biodiversity on the site.

Location Analysis

A high proportion of responses were received from residents in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Cemetery (i.e. residents from Amersham Road, Penn Road, Queensway & Wynn Grove. Only a small number of respondents were from outside of this area.

5 Conclusions

From the responses received a number of issues were raised which have been addressed above. Furthermore, during the planning consultation period, there will be the opportunity for residents to submit comments directly to the planning department.