

**STRATEGIC CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM
DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of Meeting of 21st November, 2018

Members Present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford and
Councillor Corr.

In Attendance: Mrs. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services,
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Policy and Business Development
Officer,
Mr. M. Patterson, Bereavement Services Manager, and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd October were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

**Update on Permanent Memorial to mark
Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery**

The Policy and Business Development Officer provided the Working Group with an update on the consultation process and progress to date, to design, produce and install a permanent memorial at Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery. She reminded the Working Group that the design of the proposed memorial had been approved by the Focus Group after which, a public consultation process had been undertaken which had been completed by 31st August, 2018. It was reported further that the Focus Group had been satisfied with the design of the memorial however, it had requested that the inscription on the front of the memorial be amended to cite the recorded number of babies interned within the baby plot. She confirmed that she would report back to the Working Group with information in regard to the recorded number of babies interned in the Baby Plot.

The Members were reminded that a number of complaints had been received in regard to the ground conditions and access issues to the rear of the proposed memorial. The Focus Group were satisfied with a landscape design to address those issues. She reported also that the Focus Group had requested the generic name 'Baby Public' be replaced with the name 'The Baby Haven,'. She stated that the name Plot Z1 would remain as the official name retained on Council records. The Working Group was advised that signage and local maps would require to be amended to reflect the name change, should the Members accept the recommendation of the Focus Group.

The Policy and Business Development Officer stated that, if approval were granted on the design of the memorial, it was anticipated that work on the memorial sculptor would commence in early 2019, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee and Council ratification.

The Working Group agreed to the memorial design, inscription alteration and proposed name change, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee.

Update on New Burial Lands

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with an update on the progress to date associated with the acquisition of a new burial site to meet future burial requirements. He referred to the fact that the planning application, pursued by a private individual, in respect of the Dundrod site had been refused. Subsequently the individual has requested the assistance of Belfast City Council to appeal this decision at the Planning Appeals Commission. Importantly it was reported that the deadline to submit any appeal was February 2019. The Strategic Director confirmed that there remained a need for additional burial ground, and in particular, identified the gap in provision in North and West Belfast. He referred to the decision to construct a new Crematorium at the Roselawn site and outlined the impact that would have in respect of a reduction in burial capacity at Roselawn Cemetery.

The Working Group agreed that it wished the matter to be referred to the People and Communities Committee and that, in the interim period, the matter be debated at Party Group level, prior to a decision being taken by the Committee.

Maintenance of Cremators at Roselawn Crematorium

The Bereavement Services Manager reported that due to unscheduled essential maintenance work to one of the cremators at the City of Belfast Crematorium, it would be necessary to shut down the cremators for a period of three working days. He reported that it was proposed that the last cremation would take place at lunchtime on Friday 30th November, 2018, with cremations commencing again on Tuesday, 4th December, 2018.

The Working Group noted the information provided.

Date of Future Meetings - 2019

The Working Group agreed dates in respect of its future meetings for the period 1st January 2019 till 31st March, 2019.

Chairperson