

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 9

meeting date: THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2019
title: ASHES BEAM AT CLITHEROE CEMETERY
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT - CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: KEN ROBINSON - HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To request approval for the installation of an additional ashes beam for cremated remains in Clitheroe Cemetery.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- The works will comply with the Corporate Priority to ensure a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Cremated remains have until recently been interred either next to a commemorative tree or shrub, or in a designated plot within the cemetery extension. All commemorative tree plots have been sold, therefore all demand for ashes interments must now be met in the conventional ashes interment area.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The ashes interment plots are provided with a concrete beam which provides a foundation for plaques and headstones. This arrangement is much more efficient than providing individual foundations for each plot as required and is included in the fee charged for ashes interments. The current beam will run out of space during this financial year. It is planned to install a further beam in a location parallel to the existing ones to meet anticipated demand. Such a new beam would have the capacity for a minimum of 27 or a maximum of 108 ashes interments [each plot can hold 4 interments].

3.2 It is anticipated that the provision of a further beam would cost £1,553 and it is hoped to be able to construct the new beam over the coming months (subject to approval) in order to be operational from December 2019. Once completed, the beam will have the potential to generate total income of £31,000 based on current interment charges.

3.3 It has not been possible to identify any areas within existing budgets from which to vire funds for this project. However, there is currently £4,410 which was set aside in past years in the Equipment earmarked reserve for the purpose of providing cemetery beams.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The provision of the beam is anticipated to cost £1,553 and once completed there is the potential for future total income of £31,000 based on current interment charges. Whilst this project cannot be met from existing budgets, there are resources set aside in an earmarked reserve for this purpose.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None.
- Political – None.
- Reputation – The Council is expected to provide sufficient ashes interment plots within the cemetery.
- Equality & Diversity – None.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The work to provide an additional ashes beam has become necessary as the current beam will run out of space during this financial year.
- 5.2 No existing budget is in place for the provision of the beam, but resources are available in the Equipment earmarked reserve set aside for this purpose.

6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 Approve the proposed ashes beam works at a cost of £1,553 subject to;
- 6.2 Policy and Finance committee agreeing the financial implications and budgetary provision.

KEN ROBINSON
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Ken Robinson, extension 4466.