

**Agenda Item 13, – Revised Layout of the Primrose Section
(Children’s Area) in the (new) Cemetery**

Recommendation: For the Cemetery & Town Hall Committee to approve the proposed new layout of the Primrose section in the new cemetery.

1. Introduction

The existing plans we have for the Primrose section are not practical, as reported in the Supervisors monthly report (24th July – 27th August 2021) due to the following:

- The proposed layout cannot be fitted into the actual space available within this section of the cemetery
- The graves (and headstones) will be touching each other which does not allow any room for these to be cleaned or for flowers to be placed, without the need to step on either the grave or the adjacent grave.
- Whilst a burial/ interment is taking place, the burial party will need to stand on the adjacent child’s grave in order to lower the coffin. A minimum distance of 18” (457mm) is needed to set-up the boards for a burial.
- With the current layout, the ashes plots will have the bases touching each other.

It is therefore proposed to re-design Primrose section.

2. Considerations

There are a number of factors which will need to be considered:

- The numbering of the grave spaces.
- The number of interments and the sizes predicted, i.e. number of full-size coffins, child size coffins, infant size or either baby or ashes interments.
- The cultural expectations of the distance between graves. i.e. in the city they are touching each other, in Cullompton we allow approximately 26” between burials (at 1.5 metre centres) and 19” between ashes interments for adults (at 1 metre centres). Currently in the children’s section there is 11” between the ashes plots (at .8 metre centres); there is currently only one grave and therefore no distance applicable)
- The practicalities of interments and their following maintenance (see first section above).

3. Statistics

Please see below for an overview of the number of deaths in England and Wales in 2020 - figures from the Office of National Statistics:

2399	under the age of 1 year	61%
330	1 – 4 years	8%
220	5 - 9 years old	6%
282	10 – 14 years old	7%
674	15 – 19 years old	17%
TOTAL 3905		

Ratio: Burials 25% / Cremations 75%

Currently, there are approximately 60 million people in England and Wales and 10,000 in Cullompton. Taking the above statistics into account, the death rate for Children would be 0.65 children per year. Cullompton has had approximately 1 no. child interment per year over the last 14 no. years.

If we combine the age categories in line with the ONS data and with 25% as burials and the remainder as ashes, then the figures are as follows:

Ashes or baby plots	90%
1 – 9 years old burial plots	4%
10 – 19 years olds	6%

Obviously, the actual numbers in Cullompton may not follow the national averages, but it is a good starting point for planning.

4. Recommendation.

- i. We continue with the burial plots from the existing burial going West with a space between the plots of at least 18” for children ages 10 and over. Calling this Row A, with grave spaces 1 to approximately 13 depending on the sizes of the coffins.
- ii. We continue with the ashes interments going East at a minimum of 800mm (approximately 30”) centres, which gives about 11” between memorials bases, this will allow approximately 22 spaces. Call this Row B.
- iii. Have a Row C for Ashes plots running West to East, with a walkway between it and Row B.
- iv. Have a child burial Row D backing onto Row C facing the opposite direction, running West to East. This is for the 1 – 9 year olds.

Note: Plan/diagram to be supplied (Supporting Paper O)

The rest of the area can be set to accommodate arrangement for interments in the future (approximately in 30 years-time).

Report Author: Outdoor Team Supervisor

Date: 26/01/22