



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – CEMETERIES

8 JANUARY 2018

BRIEFING NOTE: SITE VISITS TO DALLINGTON CEMETERY, NORTHAMPTON

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 At its November meeting, Scrutiny Panel 1 (Cemeteries) agreed that it would undertake a site visit to Dallington Cemetery.

1.2 A public address to the Scrutiny Panel and a written report regarding some findings at Dallington Cemetery that had been provided to the Scrutiny Panel, by two members of the public, had prompted the site visit.

2 SITE VISIT

2.1 On Friday 24 November 2017, Councillors Dennis Meredith and Alan Bottwood, together with Mick Tyrrell, Contract Manager and Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer visited a Dallington Cemetery to inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

2.2 DALLINGTON CEMETERY



2.2.1 The site visit walked around the cemetery noting:

- The cemetery was well maintained and very tidy



- Litter bins and seating is in situ. Most were in very good condition. There was a couple of different styles of bins. The bins looked as though they had been recently emptied with fresh bags inside. There was also a dog waste bin in situ.



- Some graves had conifers planted on them and other trees which would also grow very large. The planting of such trees is contrary to the cemetery rules and regulations.



- The water tanks located in the cemetery were in full working order.



- The noticeboard located at the entrance of the cemetery requires cleaning and fresh signage putting in:



- There is a lot of borough owned land that edges the cemetery. This land has been categorised as commercial land. The site visit felt this land would be useful to be re-categorised as further cemetery land.

3 CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The Site Visit concluded that:

3.1.1 Dallington Cemetery is of a high standard and is well maintained.

3.1.2 A potential recommendation of the final report was suggested – Some of the trees in situ, either on, or between graves, in Dallington cemetery are removed as soon as possible.

3.1.3 A potential recommendation of the final report was suggested – Officers are instructed to ensure the enforcement rules and regulations of cemeteries are adhered to such as the planting of trees either on or near to a grave.

3.1.4 A potential recommendation of the final report was suggested – The sign located at the entrance to Dallington Cemetery is cleaned and fresh signage placed behind the glass cabinet.

3.1.5 A potential recommendation of the final report was suggested – Consideration is given to re-categorising the borough owned land (currently categorised as commercial land) that edges the cemetery as further cemetery land.

Brief Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Date: 24 November 2017