

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER**  
**COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

**GREEN FLAG AWARD**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Joint Committee on Coychurch Crematorium's successful application for a Green Flag Award in 2013.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. It was launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. The first national award was introduced in 1997 and it continues to identify the high standards against which our parks and green spaces are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging organisations to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. All green spaces are different and diversity is encouraged with each site being judged on its merits.
- 2.2 Coychurch Crematorium received its first award in 2010 and annually thereafter. A re-submission for the Green Flag Award was made in January 2013 and awards were formally announced in July 2013.

**3. Current Situation/Proposal**

- 3.1 The re-submission for Green Flag Award was to confirm the Crematorium's commitment to maintaining high standards, which can be appreciated by all visitors.
- 3.2 The Assessment feedback is attached as **Appendix A** and illustrates the strengths and recommendations identified by the assessors during their visit to the Crematorium. The assessment concluded that *"both judges agreed it was a pleasure to judge the Crematorium. Joanna was very informative and displayed a high level of site-based knowledge which linked into the Management Plan. It was clear that the previous high standards have been maintained again for this submission. Well done to everyone involved."*
- 3.2 The Award requires an annual application and a further submission will be made in January 2014

4. **Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

4.1 There is none.

5. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

5.1 There is no impact on specific equality groups and disability duties.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 The submission for the award costs £350 and is included in the revenue budget.

7. **Recommendation:**

7.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to note the award of the Green Flag Award for 2013 and the assessor's feedback.

**CHRIS HOWELL**  
**CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER**  
**August 2013**

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**Background Papers:** Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit



## Green Flag Award 2013/2014

**Name of Site – Coychurch Crematorium**  
**Managing Organisation –**

### Bandscores

<b>Desk Assessment</b>	0-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30			
<b>Field Assessment</b>	20-29	30-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-70
<b>Overall score</b>	30-44	45-54	55-59	60-65	66-69	70-74	75-79	80+

**Status – Pass**

**Overall band score – 80+**

### Desk Assessment Feedback

**Band score – 20-24**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	A clear and concise Management plan. Flows well and was interesting to read.	Look at the possibility of an asset register to indicate the lifespan and maintenance of features and furniture.
<b>Health, Safety &amp; Security</b>	CCTV coverage. High quality W/C's located throughout the crematorium. Opening and closing times well documented. Baby changing and DDA well covered.	All areas are represented and covered in the Management Plan.
<b>Maintenance of equipment, buildings &amp; landscape</b>	Protected under the Grade 2 * Listed Building status.	Update the hedgerow survey.
<b>Litter, cleanliness, vandalism</b>	Thoroughly explained in the Management Plan.	
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	Composting and recycling well covered. Good use of borehole in times of drought. Welcome donation to CRUSE (S. Wales) via the residual metals process.	Progress the grey water / rainfall proposal. Quantify any level of peat usage from bedding / hanging basket supplier.

<b>Conservation of heritage &amp; nature</b>	New offices are sympathetic to Sir Maxwell Fry's original design.	
<b>Community Involvement</b>	The plan acknowledges the limited involvement with the community and addresses this well. Open days are well received. Close liaison with stakeholders.	
<b>Marketing Strategy</b>	Whilst the needs of the bereaved are a priority, the plan addresses the marketing of the crematorium to appropriate stakeholders.	
<b>Overall management</b>	The plan is very clear in its aims and objectives. The joint committee are clearly very proud of the Crematorium and the standard of service provided to the public. A sound financial footing allows self-financing with surplus funds reinvested.	

**Additional comments**

A clear and concise Management Plan that was very informative to read.

## Field Assessment Feedback

**Band score –55-59**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	Well signposted from all main routes. Very welcoming entrance with clear signage	
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	Very clean with no litter or dog fouling. Visible staff on site.	Lower the height of the hand-towel unit in the W/C.
<b>Clean and Well Maintained</b>	Very good standard of horticulture and maintenance. Good number of W/C's to a very high standard.	Information sign near the book of remembrance building was rusting. Requires updating / refurbishment. Consider a small number of winter flowering hanging baskets.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Use of organic fertiliser. Stand pipes for watering flowers available. Green Dragon Level 5 award across the County. Proposed smart meter's will assist in managing energy usage in the future.	Confirm peat usage from plant supplier and input into Management Plan. Provide more site specific detail in relation to the Green Dragon Level 5 award. Investigate within the industry as to whether the Oasis foam from the floral tributes can be recycled.
<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>	Clear links with the Management Plan. It is clear that conservation and heritage is high on the agenda at this location. Good selection of hybrid 'T' roses for colour and scent.	Monitor for any evidence of Ash Die Back (Chalara) within the woodland.

<b>Community Involvement</b>	Sympathetic approach to use of adjacent woodland. Open days are welcomed	Increase the size of the woodland entrance sign.
<b>Marketing</b>	Excellent survey results reflect the quality of the crematorium.	Well marketed in the appropriate areas.
<b>Management</b>	Clear links to what was evidenced on site at the time of judging to the Management Plan	

**Additional Comments**

Both judges agreed it was a pleasure to judge the crematorium. Joanna was very informative and displayed a high level of site-based knowledge which linked into the Management Plan. It was clear that the previous high standards have been maintained again for this submission. Well done to everyone involved.