

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 22ND JUNE 2018

REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER

FLOWER COURT FACILITIES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Joint Committee on the Flower Court facilities at Coychurch Crematorium and to seek approval for further investigation into improvement works.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-
1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
 2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The buildings of the Crematorium are carefully composed to relate closely to the ceremonial and sacred aspects of the cremation service and to the landscape in which they sit. It is an important work by a British architect of international reputation (Maxwell Fry) and is Grade 2* listed. As such, any proposed changes to the scheme must be carefully considered.

- 3.2 At the site visit to the Crematorium, in advance of this meeting, Members were shown the Flower Court facilities to the rear of the Crematorium building where the bereaved families greet their congregation and view their floral tributes following the funeral service in the Crallo Chapel. The Flower Court is accessed via a set of doors at the front of the chapel and comprises of a narrow corridor with toilet facilities on one side and the raised flower display to the other. An open section at the far end of the corridor leads to the waiting funeral cars and main car park.
- 3.3. An explanation was provided of the bottleneck that is created when large congregations file through one set of doors and into the limited space of the Flower Court. Additionally, the delay that can be caused to the following funeral service as a result of the slow movement of the congregation through this area.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 The Crematorium is regularly complemented by service users for the high standard of facilities provided and this is evident on the returned service questionnaires. The Flower Court facility, however, is an area that lends itself to improvement due to its compact layout. It is proving inadequate for the functions it is required to accommodate.
- 4.2 An area of open grass immediately joins the Flower Court area and provides additional space that could facilitate the construction of a purpose made extension to join the existing facility, to create one much larger flower display and dispersal area.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from the report.

7 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1 This report seeks approval to investigate the feasibility of carrying out improvement works. At this stage there is no requirement for a well-being statement.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The costs for initial consultation and design works are estimated at £30,000 and can be accommodated in the 2018/19 budget. The provision of further funding for the project would need to be considered in future reports but there is currently provision in the Crematorium's accumulated reserve funds.

9. Recommendation:

- 9.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve, in principle, the provision of an extension to the Flower Court facility by extending the rear of the Crematorium building.
- 9.2 The Joint Committee is recommended to authorise the Clerk and Technical Officer to submit a further report on the feasibility of extending the Flower Court facility.

ZAK SHELL
CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
7th June 2018

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Background Papers: Business Plan Report to the Joint Committee 2nd March 2018 and
Business Plan Report to the Joint Committee 3rd March 2017.