



## Green Flag Award 2015/2016

**Name of Site – Coychurch Crematorium**

**Managing Organisation – Coychurch Crematorium**

**Joint Committee**

### 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 –82**

### Desk Assessment Feedback

**Band score –**

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<b>Presentation</b>	<p>Concise and easy to read. Organised as per the score sheet making it easy to following in line with the judging criteria.</p>	

<p><b>Health, Safety &amp; Security</b></p>	<p>The site is locked every night as well as CCTV in operation.  There is a constant presence of staff in the daytime, even on weekends.  Risk assessments are in place and are kept up to date.  HAV tags are attached to the machinery and staff is aware of the limitation of use.</p>	
<p><b>Maintenance of equipment, buildings &amp; landscape</b></p>	<p>Machinery is well maintained and have HAV tags attached  Benches are not fixed to the ground but are inspected constantly for damage.  The Chapels and Crematory are grade 2 listed buildings so tight controls are in place overseen by CADW.  There is a plentiful supply of signage and notice boards. Also plenty of bins in place.  Bridgend Council are contracted to maintain pathways and assist with snow clearance, as well as the parks department who assist with the grounds maintenance.  The pond has the requisite safety signage in place and the pool itself is maintained by a specialist contractor.</p>	<p>Minor point, a number of the notice boards were affected by condensation making it difficult to read some of the information displayed.</p>

<p><b>Litter, cleanliness, vandalism</b></p>	<p>Plenty of bins are placed around the site. These are regularly emptied and Bridgend Council remove this waste from site.  A plastic waste recycling company dispose of plastics flower displays and flower wrappings. The site based staff have taken ownership and contribute to the high standard of cleanliness.  There is no evidence of vandalism.</p>	
<p><b>Environmental Sustainability</b></p>	<p>All plant material from memorial flowers is composted on site.  Arising from grounds maintenance are taken away by the council team to their depot where it is collected by a recycling company.  Time limits on memorial flowers are in place.  A National Plastic Recycling Scheme for crematoria has been introduced by Agriplas. Biodegradable or natural products are used whenever possible in relation to caskets and carry-all bags.  Green Dragon Environmental Standard Award Level 5 has been achieved.  Annual licence for emissions from the cremators is issued annually.  New more efficient cremators are being installed within the next year.  Parks Department do use herbicides twice a year. (necessary evil!)  Any bark mulch sourced is controlled by FSC.  No peat use on site.</p>	<p>Could introduce more recycling bins.   New cremators will benefit site greatly.</p>

<p><b>Conservation of heritage &amp; nature</b></p>	<p>Grade 2 listed building overseen by CADW. New office block built in sympathy with the rest of the buildings.</p> <p>Coed Brynglas is designated SINCs</p> <p>Crematorium site is set in Landscape Conservation Area (LCA)</p> <p>The Forestry Commission's Better Woodlands for Wales management agreement is in place for the woodland. This is managed by Coed Cymru.</p> <p>The woodland is consistent with a National Vegetation Classification of W* Woodland Type.</p> <p>Three hedgerows that border the crematorium have been classed as important under the Hedgerows Regulations (1997)</p> <p>Regular tree inspections are undertaken.</p>	
<p><b>Community Involvement</b></p>	<p>All faiths are accommodated.</p> <p>Open days are arranged every few years.</p> <p>Volunteering is limited to the woodland area under close supervision due to nature of site.</p> <p>Annual Remembrance Christmas Service is organised.</p> <p>Crematorium is available for inspection by hospital nurses, hospice staff, families etc.</p>	<p>If possible look to organise an annual open day, constraints allowing.</p>
<p><b>Marketing Strategy</b></p>	<p>Plenty of information available.</p> <p>Due to nature of site, this is a sensitive issue and what is in place appears to be totally appropriate.</p>	
<p><b>Overall management</b></p>	<p>Joint Committee of representatives from Bridgend Council, Vale of Glamorgan and RCT meet quarterly.</p> <p>The management of this site is excellent and is carried out by people who care about this site</p>	

---

**Additional comments**

.  
Well laid out management plans by a dedicated and sympathetic staff who put the stakeholders and environment at the heart of their operation. Well done.

## Field Assessment Feedback

### Band score –

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>	<p>Good clear signage from road. Entrance very well maintained. On entering the site is open an welcoming with signs to guide to areas you need to find. Disabled access available.</p>	<p>Minor issue, one sign on main road is slightly covered by vegetation.</p>
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>	<p>CCTV in operation Uniformed staff present on site when grounds are open. Gates locked at night. Good clear vistas Benches are in good condition and inspected regularly. Roads and pathways all clean and well maintained. Speed limits in operation throughout site</p>	
<b>Clean and Well Maintained</b>	<p>Benches are in good condition and inspected regularly. Roads and pathways all clean and well maintained. Plenty of bins available Dog mess is not an issue Very clean site throughout. Benches not fixed to ground enabling more consistent grass cutting around bases.</p>	<p>Some of the notice boards are suffering with condensation making it difficult to read some information.</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>		

	<p>By definition a crematorium is not the most environmentally friendly place, notwithstanding this, new greener cremators are to be installed imminently.</p> <p>Herbicides used sparingly and noted that herbicide wipes are used in preference to sprayers.</p> <p>No use of peat.</p> <p>Woodland management in very good hands (Coed Cymru)</p> <p>Composting of floral memorials on site.</p> <p>Plastics removed for recycling</p> <p>Green Dragon level 5 achieved</p>	
<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>	<p>Grade 2 listed building (CADW)</p> <p>Woodland is listed as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). This managed by Coed Cymru.</p> <p>Stained glass is internationally recognised.</p> <p><b>"Important"</b> classed hedgerows present on site.</p>	
<b>Community Involvement</b>	<p>Cadw involvement</p> <p>Three local authorities make up the joint committee (Brdgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff)</p> <p>Open days organised</p> <p>Memorial services take place at Christmas time</p> <p>Very difficult to organise too much community involvement due to nature of site.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this volunteers have good involvement with the management of the woodland</p> <p>Questionnaires sent out to users of the site for feedback on facilities.</p>	<p>Possibly look to organise more frequent open days (If operationally possible)</p>
<b>Marketing</b>	<p>Newsletter produced twice yearly.</p> <p>Customer questionnaires sent out.</p> <p>Information available on notice boards around site.</p> <p>Triannual open days organised.</p> <p>Information about site placed in funeral directors hospitals etc.</p>	<p>Possibly look to organise more frequent open days (If operationally possible)</p>
<b>Management</b>		

	<p>Dedicated caring staff look after this facility who have taken ownership of the site and keep in an immaculate welcoming place. Every effort is made to be as sustainable as possible and sympathetic to the surroundings, working in partnerships with the likes of Cadw, Coed Cymru etc.</p> <p>This is a team who care and do a very good job.</p>	
--	--	--

**Additional Comments**

May I offer my congratulations to all who are involved in the running of Coychurch Crematorium. On entering the grounds we were filled with the sense of peace and serenity. It was very difficult to criticise the site on anything and the only things that were picked up on are extremely minor, some of which are probably beyond control.  
Keep up the good work!