



Report to: **Mansfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee**

Date: 18th September 2023

Director Lead: Mansfield District Council, Sarah Troman, Head of Neighbourhood Services, 01623 463036

Lead Officer: Mansfield District Council, Nada Colclough, Crematorium and Cemeteries Manager and Registrar, 01623 463882

Report Summary	
Type of report	Open Report
Report Title	Pond Development Report
Purpose of Report	This report seeks to provide an update on the pond within the memorial gardens
Recommendations	1. That the committee note the report

1.0 **Background**

The committee, during the meeting on 27th February, objected to the removal of the pond feature within the memorial gardens.

2.0 **Proposal/Options Considered and Reasons for Recommendation**

2.1 **Pond History**

2.1.1 The pond was installed when the crematorium first opened and in that time families have been able to scatter cremated remains in the close vicinity of the pond. Unfortunately over has period of time the pond has deteriorated and required work on a number of elements:

- The concrete lining became cracked
- The pump and filtration system required replacement
- The electric and water supply required upgrading

2.1.2 During 2021/22 quotes were sought to upgrade the pond area including additional water features and a complete upgrade of the electoral and pipework infrastructure. With the cheapest quote obtained being in the region of £30k, exclusive of electrical and ground works this was put on hold.

- 2.1.3 It was felt that the pond should be removed, filled in and grassed due to the extensive costs involved in redevelopment and this was presented to the committee in February 2023. There was an objection to this proposal on the basis on the impact that this would have on families.

2.2 Cremated Remains Scattering

- 2.2.1 In light of the objection received from the committee, research was carried out in order to determine the impact that the removal of the pond may have on families who had chosen to scatter the ashes of their loved ones. Unfortunately, due to the information relating to the location of scattered ashes being predominantly paper based and relating to scatterings that have taken place over a 60 year period, it was not possible to identify the total number of families affected.
- 2.2.2 When the crematorium was first opened the pond area was one of the main scattering areas for families and due to the popularity of the areas additional areas where needed and this saw the extension of the existing scattering areas.
- 2.2.3 Due to the popularity families were halted from scattering in the area unless they already had a family member scattered within the area. This has now been the case for many years.
- 2.2.4 We can only determine that 1000s of ashes are scattered within the area with many families having a number of family member scattered within the area. With this in mind, it is felt that the number of families affected is too great and there for the removal of the pond would not be appropriate.

2.3 Pond Development

- 2.3.1 While the pond was originally filled in, in order to secure the site from a health and safety point of view, the failing concrete has now been removed and has been replaced with a new pond liner. The pond has now been fully reinstated with the addition of a waterfall to the rear of the feature. Additional planting around the area will take place in the coming weeks.
- 2.3.3 Benches will be installed around the pond area, for families to lease, in memory of a loved one.
- 2.3.4 All work is being carried out by the existing grounds team, minimising the cost of contractors.
- 2.3.5 Works carried out are from the existing maintenance budget, eliminating the need to budget alignment to accommodate the additional works.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.