

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

Date: Monday 15th December 2025 (10.00 am)

Director Lead: Mansfield District Council, Ady Selby, Assistant Director 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	Operations Report
Purpose of Report	This report seeks to provide an update the current operation of the crematorium
Recommendations	1. That the committee note the report.

1.0 Background

The previous report was presented to the committee in September 2025. This report provides the committee with an update on the crematorium operation since then.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 Cremator and Ancillary Equipment

- 2.2 Winter servicing has been completed on the cremators, and this has identified the following concerns:
- 2.2 Cremator number 4 – The blast tube and a small number of tiles have been replaced which has provided a temporary repair. It is anticipated that the additional approved spend of up to £60k, approved at the previous meeting, will be spent on the heath and the flu box.

2.3 Cremator numbers 2 – The rake door keeps coming loose however we have spares available to repair this. Issues have been identified with the integrity of the brickwork which is being reviewed. Any required reline may render conversations that will determine the decommissioning of the cremator.

2.4 Number 3 cremator is operating as expected with no issues

2.5 Building Maintenance and Repair

2.6 The identified crack in the chimney stack that requires repair is still on hold due to the bat roosts. While ongoing monitoring of the roosts is required an amendment to the license is required prior to any works being carried out.

2.7 Bearing in mind the health and safety concerns, a referral has been made to building control to firstly provide confidence that there are no immediate concerns of collapse and secondly that advice sought may support the license for works to be carried out.

2.8 While there was no immediate concern for collapse identified we are awaiting a report from building control to determine a way forward for the works. Appointment of an appropriate contractor and the associated bat monitoring is being managed through MDC Design Services team.

2.9 Grounds Maintenance

2.10 Tree work detailed in the operations report from September '25 has now been completed with further tree works planned for the 26/27 financial year. This is in line with the new financial year but also to support permitted felling amounts per quarter.

2.11 The further tree work is required for tree management and to overcome challenges with tree cover effecting the growth of grass and shrubs.

2.12 Soil Management

2.13 At the meeting in September members were made aware of concerns with the soil quality within the crematorium grounds and the impact that this was having on the growth of memorial plants, shrubs and grass.

2.14 Issues have been identified specifically in areas where cremated remains are scattered due to the ashes being Very high in salts, high in pH (alkaline), low in organic matter, low in nutrients usable by plants and are mostly calcium phosphate and minerals. Because of this, adding cremated remains directly to soil can harm or stunt plants unless it is handled appropriately.

- 2.15 The negative effects on soil & plants are that high salt levels can dehydrate roots, and a high pH can prevent nutrient uptake. Low organic material also means that soil structures are not improved.
- 2.16 Effectively diluted or treated remains can be included into soil safely and incorporated as part of memorial planting
- 2.17 To overcome the concerns a further extensive analysis of the soil is being carried out and an action plan will be provided.
- 2.18 We know from initial discussions with a specialist that significant watering can support the dilution of specific areas, and the notion of a watering system being installed was explored during the previous committee meeting.
- 2.19 While the Crematorium will take the initial steps to identify the action plan for the improvement of the soil, consideration will be taken to the implementation of a watering system in line with the proposed plans for water harvesting at the crematorium, following the refurbishment.

2.20 **Charity Engagement**

- 2.21 During the committee meeting in September charity engagement was discussed following the donation to the Children's Bereavement Centre. Members requested further information on the charities that the Crematorium currently engage with, and this prompted the need to formalise the Crematorium Charity Engagement Strategy.
- 2.22 While work with charities is pivotal in ensuring that bereaved families have access to robust bereavement support, this happens informally and doesn't allow for any indication of outcomes for families. While numbers are currently low for referrals this needs tracking effectively so that we can demonstrate the impact that the wider bereavement services have on families seeking support.
- 2.23 While referrals to support services is important, engagement with local and national charities to raise awareness to support local provision, this is also considered within the strategy that can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 2.24 There are some elements of the strategy that are unable to be implemented until the crematorium has improved facilities to be able to house support sessions of information days, but this is considered as part of the longer-term plan.

2.25 Cremation Data

2.24 Numbers unexpectedly low for the summer period. Overall, at 89.8% of cumulative target for Q1 and Q2. This is anticipated to improve during Q3 with 372 bookings already made, at the time of writing this report, with the increase expected to be seen in weeks 2-4 of December.

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Q1	565	745	533	576	561	469	490
Q2	505	511	558	595	476	469	408
Q3	579	640	607	512	521	506	372
Q4	660	838	601	691	586	546	
Total	2309	2734	2299	2374	2144	1990	898

Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendation's 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 referred 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.

NIL