

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
16 SEPTEMBER 2019

RECYCLING OF METALS

1.0 Summary

1.1 To present an update on the Recycling of Metals obtained through cremation and the donation of monies received.

2.0 Recommendations

- i) That the Joint Committee agrees to support charities that give the most benefit locally to both those who are in end of life care and also in the wider community for counselling etc. of those who require bereavement counselling.
- ii) That each of the 3 Local Authorities nominates a bereavement based charity which serves their respective area.
- iii) That any monies gained through the final collection for any of the remembrance services held at the crematorium (usually in December) are also donated to the nominated charities.
- iv) That all nominations are taken in rotation.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 Historically crematoria have always disposed of such things as hip joints, pins, coffin pins etc by means of burying in an unmarked area within the crematorium grounds. This not only used valuable space within the crematorium grounds and placed metals in the grounds which would remain there forever, but it also meant that metals that could be smelted down and re-used were not being utilised as such and therefore long term this could have had a negative effect on reducing the amount of non-renewable resources that have to be mined to create the virgin metals.
- 3.2 It is important to note that the metals referred to are those that are usually found in surgical implants and are not those from jewellery. Metals used in jewellery have a lower melting point than those used in surgical implants and therefore become gaseous and are destroyed through the cremation process.
- 3.3 The ICCM have followed the Dutch Cremation Federation in adopting a scheme of recycling such metals which has been approved by the Environment Agency and not only benefits society in that it means it aids the reduction in mining of non-renewable sources to create the virgin metals required to produce surgical implants, but any monies gained from the 'weighing in' of such metal residues are donated nationally to charities within the UK which have a connection with bereavement.
- 3.4 The Applicant for Cremation is required to give their consent to the conditions for environmentally sensitive disposal of any metals that remain following cremation, however the form also gives the applicant the opportunity to claim all

the metals recovered from their loved ones cremation and have them returned to them with the cremated remains.

3.5 The scheme was adopted by the Mansfield & District Crematorium Joint Committee in 2011 with the first collection taking place in 2012.

3.6 The metals that have been recycled produce a payment which is collated nationally and each authority who has signed up to the scheme has the opportunity of nominating a bereavement related charity to receive a proportion of the money raised. The money does not go back to the individual crematoria. On average there are two collections per year.

3.7 The Joint Committee chose to support 3 Hospices in rotation which served the committee's area, the first one being the Nottingham Hospice, the second Beaumont House in Newark and the third John Eastwood Hospice in Sutton-in-Ashfield/Mansfield. The proceeds of each donation are sent to the relevant Hospice to allow them to put it good use for patient care to help ensure that they continue to provide free services to patients with life-limiting illness and support to their families and carers therefore giving a far reaching and accessible for all service.

3.8. During the period in which the Mansfield Crematorium has been involved in the recycling project the following monies have been raised for charities locally:-

John Eastwood Hospice have received 4 cheques over a 6.5 year period to the value of £17961 in total

Nottinghamshire Hospice have received 4 cheques over a 6.5 year period to the value of £21412 in total

Beaumont House Hospice have received 4 cheques over a 6.5 year period to the value of £19004 in total

3.9 The Joint Committee originally agreed that the 3 hospices would be supported in this manner with regards to the first 3 collections, however it is now necessary to look at where future monies will go.

4.0 **Options available**

4.1 There are numerous charities that are available to support most being linked to national, symptom specific causes such as cancer research, british lung foundation, royal british legion, SANDS (stillbirth and neonatal), british heart foundation etc, however there are also a number of local charities which also provide not only end of life care which is none symptom specific but also provide additional help to families and friends who are struggling to cope with the bereavement process, such as local hospices, help lines etc.

4.2 details of local charities are attached in Appendix 1 – this is not exhaustive.

5.0 **Risk assessment of recommendations and options**

<u>Risk</u>	<u>Risk Assessment</u>	<u>Risk Level</u>	<u>Risk Management</u>
<u>That a charity is not nominated and recycling monies not distributed in accordance with applicants wishes to recycle</u>	<u>Potential damage to reputation for not carrying out clients instructions</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Ensure that there is a clear list of nominations of charities that meet the brief of the ICCM</u>

6 **IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) Relevant Legislation: FBCA Code of Cremation Practice (the professional body which oversees crematoria)
- (b) Human Rights: It is not considered that individual human rights will be infringed.
- (c) Equality and Diversity: No direct impact
- (d) Climate change and environmental sustainability: No direct impact
- (e) Crime and Disorder: No direct impact
- (f) Budget /Resource: There are no budget / resource implications.

For further information please contact S A Curtis

Tel: 01623 621811