

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

TITLE : RECYCLING OF PACEMAKERS

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 To present an update on the Recycling of Metals and extend the service to include pacemakers removed prior to cremation by Funeral Directors.

2 Recommendations

- i) That the Joint Committee agrees to offer Funeral Directors the opportunity to recycle any pacemakers they remove prior to cremation so that they can either filter in to the Recycling of Metals scheme or, once assessed if deemed to be suitable sent for use in developing countries through a pacemaker charity.
- ii) That the Joint Committee agrees to the continued rotation of donations as indicated in the report 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.
- iv) 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 in the same rotation.

3 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 affect 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 ICCM, together with Orthometals (the collection company), has expanded their Metals Recycling Scheme to include pacemakers. Under the scheme, funeral directors will be able to take pacemakers that have been removed prior to cremation to their local participating crematorium and place them in special bins provided by Orthometals. Orthometals will collect the bins alongside the other metals bins during their routine collections. The scheme has already been trialled at Mortlake Crematorium, where it has proven to be popular with their local funeral directors.
- 3.7 After collection, Orthometals will sort and test the pacemakers – those that are suitable will be donated to a pacemaker charity for use in developing countries. It is anticipated that the number of pacemakers suitable for donation will be low, and that most will be recycled. There is very little value in an individual pacemaker, but in larger numbers there is some scrap metal value. As with the metals scheme, any surplus will be distributed to bereavement related charities nominated by the participating crematoria, thus increasing the amount donated.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The Joint Committee initially chose to support 3 Hospices in rotation which served the committee's area, the first one being the Nottingham Hospice (Ashfield District Council's nomination), the second John Eastwood Hospice in Sutton-in-Ashfield/Mansfield (Mansfield District Council's nomination) and the third Beaumont House in Newark (Newark & Sherwood District Council's nomination). 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.
- 3.10 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
- 3.11 The Joint Committee have recently re-confirmed their commitment to supporting the two hospices that currently serve directly the Local Authority areas i.e. Beaumont House and John Eastwood Hospice. Which, following their rotation

would mean that Ashfield District Council's nomination of John Eastwood Hospice would be the next nomination.

Rotation	Local Authority	Nomination
1	Ashfield District Council	John Eastwood Hospice
2	Mansfield District Council	John Eastwood Hospice
3	Newark & Sherwood DC	Beaumont House Hospice

5 **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

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