

DATE OF COMMITTEE
11 SEPTEMBER 2012

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER
FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

CONSIDERATION OF THE CABINET RESPONSES TO CEMETERY GATES PETITION

EXEMPT INFORMATION

NO

PURPOSE

To inform Council of Cabinets' preferred option in response to the petition received by the Council in respect of locking and unlocking all cemetery gates all year round.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to endorse the preferred option of supporting the establishment of a Friends of Group for the cemeteries to undertake the locking and unlocking of the gates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2010 Cabinet resolved to stop locking and unlocking all cemetery gates, initially for a 12 month trial period and then permanently provided there were no serious issues arising from this.

In April 2012 a petition requesting the reinstatement of the locking and unlocking of all cemetery gates was received by the Council.

At the meeting of full Council on the 11th July 2012 this petition was presented and Council resolved that Cabinet would consider various options in response to the petition and bring back a preferred option to full Council on the 11th September 2012. Cabinet considered several options at its meeting on the 15th August and has recommended their preferred approach.

The option Cabinet wish Council to consider is to support the establishment of a "Friends of Group" for the Cemeteries, to be headed up by the petitioner initially to undertake the locking and unlocking of Wilnecote cemetery gates 365 days a year then broadening as the group grows to cover all cemeteries.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct revenue or resource costs to this option, although support will be given to the group from appropriate services within the Council whilst they establish themselves.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

There is a risk to the reputation of the Council should the Friends of Group be unable to unlock the gates for any reason, in this situation an alternate provision will have to be made which would result in additional costs to the Council.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

As the petitioner has indicated that they wish to be responsible for the locking/unlocking of the cemetery gates this should be a sustainable option provided that there is sufficient support from both the Council in the first instance to provide the appropriate advice and guidance to set up the group and an ongoing commitment from the Friends of Group in the long term.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Cabinet August 15 2012

APPENDICES

None