

# Wyre Council

## Grave space memorabilia policy

### Policy and procedure grave space memorabilia

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Cemeteries are legislated for under the Local Government Act 1974 and also the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977. Under these provisions an authority may do all such things as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery.
- 1.2 Wyre Council has reviewed the policy and procedure in relation to grave space memorabilia. This policy supports and is in addition to the council's cemeteries' rules and regulations.
- 1.3 Wyre cemeteries remain lawned areas for the safe and dignified management and maintenance of the cemeteries.
- 1.4 The council wishes to provide a safe cemetery which is an attractive and peaceful place to visit. This can only be achieved with the co-operation of families. Limiting the area in front of the memorial that can be used for planting bulbs or bedding plants to 15 inches was put in place to reduce the dangers and hazards in the cemeteries..

#### 2. Proposed change to memorabilia

- 2.1 Following a review of the policy it has been decided that memorabilia may be placed within 15inches/38cm from the front of the headstone but must be removable and no wider than the headstone plinth. The area remains the families responsibility for keeping in good order.
- 2.2 Surrounds must be removable and within the space as stated in

##### 2.1. 2.3 Items not permitted are:

- Glass
- Noise creating objects
- Fast growing shrubs trees
- Offensive items

The above will be removed immediately without notice.

- 2.4 Memorabilia will be removed when necessary by staff to allow for burials in adjoining/surrounding graves.

- 2.5 The health and safety of funeral directors and mourners when attending burials is the priority on the day. When a grave is opened, kerbings, ornaments etc., have to be moved from approximately four graves either side of the burial. If they are not removed then funeral directors who are lifting a weight in excess of 95 kg (15 st) have to manoeuvre around or over these garden areas increasing the risk of falls and injury to limbs while on council land.
- 2.6 Should any other item be placed outside the above area, or is considered a hazard or danger, it can be removed without notice. The council does not accept responsibility for damage or loss of any memorials, ornaments etc howsoever caused.

### **3. Reviewed paperwork and notifications**

- 3.1 The paragraph added to the form memorial application form see appendices states that any item not complying with the policy will be removed immediately. This paragraph has to be signed otherwise the memorial application permit will not be given.
- 3.2 Memorialisation agreement within the interment form see appendices has been amended. It clarified the owner rights in relation to burial use of the grave.
- 3.3 Any memorabilia/grave that is not kept tidy, the family will receive a letter giving two weeks notice to tidy or remove. If no contact received the area will be grassed.
- 3.4 In addition any grave with full kerb sets in disrepair will be given 12 months notice under the above act and order prior to removal.
- 3.5 The website to contain all notifications, on site notices, paperwork changes see 3.6 and 3.7 above and amended booklet to be posted following an interment. Media coverage via the councils communications team.

### **4. Commencement and review**

- 4.1 This policy will come into effect immediately. It will be kept under review and the council may make further changes as a result. This document can be viewed online at [www.wyre.gov.uk](http://www.wyre.gov.uk)