

Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee 9th December 2024 Meeting Report

8. Simmons Park

8.1 To note the following updates:

- a) **Bookings - Events that have either taken place or are scheduled to take place in Simmons Park, subject to receipt of the necessary paperwork.**

Santa Run	Sun 08/12/2024 08:00
Fair in the Park	Sat 12/04/2025 11:00
Okehampton Celebrates	Thu 08/05/2025 08:00
Rotary Fair	Sun 03/08/2025 08:00
Parkrun	Saturdays at 9am

8.2 **Signage – To consider a request from Nibbles Cafe to place advertising signage in Simmons Park**

The owner of Nibbles Café located in Parklands Leisure Centre has requested permission to place advertising signage in Simmons Park.

The parks policy on signage is that it is kept to a minimum in line with the parks Heritage status. Existing advertising signage is in keeping with the parks ethos and does not explicitly advertise businesses. Existing signage photos follow for information.



Car park adjacent to Bowling Club hedge



In flowerbed alongside Bandstand



Gateway by football pavilion

Nibbles Café were asked to remove signage placed alongside the bandstand and as a temporary measure were permitted to place laminated signs on the bandstand. Photos of both follow:



Neither of these signs fits with the ethos of the Park and could lead to requests for alternative and/or new signage from the Pavilion and other groups/organisations.

On 14th November the following correspondence was received from a member of the public:

I've just seen the posters for Nibbles cafe attached to the bandstand in Simmons Park and I think it looks awful. It's a lovely bandstand and being defaced by fliers is not on. Can they be removed?

It is recommended that should be Committee agree to the request from Nibbles Café to place advertising signage in Simmons Park that it should be in accordance with other permitted signage, photos as above.

8.4 Car Park Fees and Charges

a) To review parking fees, recommended date of any changes to be implemented from the date of a revised agreement with WDBC

Date:	1 st October 2024
Name:	Abi Horn

It currently costs £3 a day Monday to Friday and £1.80 on a Saturday (8am to 12 noon) to park in Simmons Park Carpark.

It is recommended that the Committee considers the fees and charges, which have not been increased at least 10 years as follows:

Time	Current Ticket Price	Suggested Ticket Price
½ hour	£0.30	£0.50
1 Hour	£0.50	£0.70
2 Hours	£0.70	£1.00
3 Hours	£1.20	£1.50
4 Hours	£1.80	£2.00
All Day	£3.00	£4.00

b) To review parking permit charges and associated conditions or any restrictions, recommended date of any changes to the charges to be implemented from the date of a revised agreement with WDBC

	Current price, if daily ticket purchased	Parking Permit Price	Ticket Price if recommendation above is approved	Suggested Parking Permit Price
1 Week	£16.80	-	£22.00	
4 Weeks	£67.20	-	£88.00	
3 Months	£201.60	£40	£264.00	£50.00
6 Months	£403.20	£75	£528.00	£95.00
12 Months	£806.40	£150	£1056	£190.00

9.2 Skatepark

a) To note correspondence received from a member of the public

Dear Okehampton Town
Council

My name is [redacted] I am [redacted]
I have recently become
interested in scootering
and I go to the skate park
alot.

I would like the grafitti
to be cleaned off the
ramps as they are becoming
slippery.

I have visited alot of
skateparks in Devon over
the summer holidays and
I really like the concrete
parks.

Please could we make some
improvements to Okehampton
skate park?

The flowerpot skatepark in
Exeter is my favourite, it
has a box, bowl and
some really fun ramps and
is made of really smooth
concrete.

How would be the best
way to clean the grafitti?
Does the council have equipment
to do it?

it up and make the skate
park look nicer.

Thank you for reading
my letter.

Cemetery 10.1

Burials - To note the details for the year to date

Grave Summary

Okehampton Cemetery

Grave Number	Interment No	Grave Usage	Denomination	Consecrated ?	Surname	Date of death	Burial date
B02-05	1	Burial - New Dou	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heard		16/10/2024
B04-08	2	Burial Re-Open f	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	King	24/04/2024	15/05/2024
B06-08	2	Burial - New Singl	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Palmer		17/06/2024
B19-06	1	Burial - New Dou		<input type="checkbox"/>	Bond	21/08/2024	06/09/2024
B20-02	1	Burial - New Dou	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barkwill	08/08/2024	02/09/2024
B20-04	1	Burial - New Dou	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tushingham	02/09/2024	09/10/2024
B20-07	1	Burial - New Dou	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Woolacott	13/11/2024	03/12/2024
B20-08	1	Burial - New Dou	C of E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Curtis	04/08/2024	23/08/2024

Graves Purchased

Okehampton Cemetery

Grave Number	Interment number	Purchase date	Purchaser	Deceased's Surname
B19-06	1	06/09/2024		Bond
B20-02	1	02/09/2024		Barkwill
B20-04	1	09/10/2024		Tushingham
B20-07	1	03/12/2024		Woolacott
B20-08	1	23/08/2024		Curtis
Total number =		5		

Graves Purchased

Okehampton Cemetery

Grave Number	Interment number	Purchase date	Purchaser	Deceased's Surname
B19-07	1	06/08/2024		
B20-01	1	25/03/2024		
B20-03	1	27/08/2024		
B20-05	1	26/09/2024		
B20-06	1	18/11/2024		
C01-01	1	26/02/2024		
Total number =		6		

Graves with memorials

Lawn Memorial

Okehampton Cemetery	B16-07	Midgley
Okehampton Cemetery	B18-07	Stockwell
Okehampton Cemetery	B19-01	Osman
Okehampton Cemetery	B19-05	Thomson
Okehampton Cemetery	B19-08	Compton

Additional inscription

Okehampton Cemetery	B12-01	Drew
Okehampton Cemetery	B13-06	Kelly

10.3 Consultation – To consider a response to the consultation as recommended by the Cemetery Working Group <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/law-commission/burial-and-cremation/>

Recommended response:

Approaches to regulating burial grounds

1. We provisionally propose that there should not be a single uniform burial law applying to private, local authority, Church of England and Church in Wales burial grounds. Instead, we provisionally propose that different aspects of regulation should be introduced for different types of burial grounds, where there is a case for doing so.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

No

2. We provisionally propose that regulation of private burial grounds should encompass any land where the primary purpose is, or has been, burial.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

No

- 2.1 We invite consultees' views on whether the definition of burial in the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 has caused any problems.

None

3. We provisionally propose that:
 - a) it should be a criminal offence for a person making a burial outside a burial ground to knowingly fail to register it;
 - b) it should be a criminal offence for a person transferring an interest in that land, or creating a lease of more than 21 years on that land, to knowingly fail to transfer the burial register to the new owner or lessee; or for the lessee to knowingly fail to transfer it to the owner at the end of the lease; and
 - c) the maximum penalty for these offences should be a fine at level 2 on the standard scale (£500).

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know No

4. We provisionally propose that in a local authority cemetery, the religious services that accompany a burial in all areas reserved or consecrated to a religious faith should be restricted to those of that faith, or to no service at all.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Don't know

Maintenance and burial specifications

5. We provisionally propose that every burial ground owner should be required to maintain their burial ground in good order appropriate to its current use.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

6. We invite consultees' views on whether problems of poor maintenance of burial grounds are sufficient to impose requirements on burial ground operators, over and above setting a uniform standard of maintenance.

Okehampton Town Council believes that poor maintenance in burial grounds is a reason to impose requirements.

6.1 We invite consultees to provide examples or evidence of issues with poor maintenance that would potentially justify such requirements.

Health and safety

It causes distress to families when graves are grown over and they cannot reach them.

6.2 We invite consultees' views as to whether, if further regulatory action should be taken in relation to the maintenance of burial grounds:

a) the Secretary of State should issue a statutory code of practice for burial ground maintenance, following consultation with stakeholders; or

b) all burial ground operators should be required to publish a management plan on a periodic basis.

Okehampton Town Council would support both these options being put into regulation.

7. We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should continue to be able to authorise inspections of burial grounds. Where an inspection finds that the law is not being complied with, the Secretary of State should be able to issue a notice requiring actions to be taken to bring the burial ground into compliance.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

8. We provisionally propose the abolition of the offence of failing to adhere to cemetery regulations in section 8 of the Burial Act 1855.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

9. We invite consultees' views on whether the Secretary of State should have the power to direct that a local authority takes over the management of a burial ground which has failed to comply with the actions required in a notice, and whether local authorities in such circumstances should have the power to charge costs back to the cemetery owner.

Okehampton Town Council believes that the Secretary of State should allow local authorities to in these circumstances to have the power to charge back the costs to the owners of the cemetery.

10. We invite consultees' views on what the minimum burial depth should be for bodies buried in a non-perishable coffin, and for bodies buried in a perishable coffin or wrappings.

6ft for a double plot

10.1 We provisionally propose that:

a) in all burial grounds there should be six inches of soil between two coffins or bodies which are interred in the same grave; and

b) for walled graves or vaults, there should be a requirement for them to be properly constructed of suitable materials, and for the coffin to be embedded in concrete or enclosed in a separate airtight compartment within 24 hours of the interment.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

10.2 We provisionally propose the creation of a new criminal offence of recklessly breaching minimum burial requirements, with a maximum penalty on summary conviction of a fine at level 2 on the standard scale (£500).

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

Burial rights and memorials

11. We provisionally propose that, in relation to all cemeteries:

a) it should be a requirement for all burial rights, both exclusive and nonexclusive, and memorial rights, to be issued in writing;

b) where this requirement is not met on the grant of a burial right, the purchaser should be able to request that their burial right is made out in writing, and that where the operator does not comply within a month the Secretary of State should have the power to issue a civil penalty; and

c) that where a burial right has not been issued in writing, there should be a presumption that the right is a statutory exclusive burial right.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

12. We invite consultees' views as to whether an optional scheme of statutory exclusive burial rights should be introduced for private cemeteries which are not already governed by their own Act of Parliament.

Okehampton Town Council believes that a statutory exclusive right of burial should be introduced in private cemeteries.

12.1 If consultees support the introduction of an optional scheme of statutory exclusive burial rights, we invite consultees' views on the following.

a) Should the right be able to be assigned by deed or inherited?

b) Should the right have a maximum duration of 100 years, subject to extension at the discretion of the cemetery operator?

c) Should there be any other features of such a scheme?

Okehampton Town Council thinks the right should be inherited and should have the maximum duration of 100 years subject to extension at the discretion of the cemetery operator.

13. We provisionally propose that:

a) in its cemetery, a local authority should have the power to grant a memorial right to any relative of a person buried in a grave if no memorial has been placed on the grave two years after the burial; and

b) if there is a dispute between different relatives, or between the relatives and the owner of the exclusive burial right, a local authority should only have the power to grant the right to a neutral memorial displaying the name of the deceased person and their dates of birth and death.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

No

14. We provisionally propose that a local authority should be permitted to maintain a tombstone, memorial or vault without the consent of its owner, if they have served notice on the owner at their last address known to the authority, and the owner has not objected within three months of such notice being served.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

No

Record keeping

15. We provisionally propose that:

a) a consistent system of burial registration should be introduced;

b) the requirement for burials (of both bodies and cremated remains) to be registered as soon as possible should be retained;

c) all burial ground operators should be under a statutory duty to keep the following documents:

a burial register;

a register of disinterments;

a plan of the burial ground; and

a register of rights granted; and

d) these records should be kept either electronically or on paper.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

15.1 We provisionally propose the repeal of the criminal offences of failing to register a burial:

a) by a private burial ground operator where registration is not governed by an Act of Parliament; and

b) by a Church of England minister when a burial takes place in consecrated ground in a Church of England churchyard without the rites of the Church of England.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Don't know

16. We invite consultees' views as to whether burial registration documents should be sent to the General Register Office or Historic England when a burial ground closes.

General Register Office and they can pass it on to Historic England after a suitable period of time has passed.

17. We provisionally propose that the criminal offences relating to burying a child as if it were stillborn and burying more than one body in a coffin should be repealed.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

Grave reuse and reclamation

18. We provisionally propose that any grave reuse powers should apply to common or public graves, and to those where exclusive rights of burial have expired, as well as those where exclusive rights of burial have been extinguished.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't know

Yes

19. We invite consultees' views on the minimum time that must elapse between the last burial in a grave, and the burial rights in that grave being extinguished and the grave being reused. Should it be:

- a) 75 years
- b) 100 years;
- c) or a different period

75 years

19.1 We invite consultees' views as to whether there should be a requirement that a grave must not be reused if it still contains significant remains from a previous burial.

If so, we invite consultees' views on what should count as "significant remains".

Okehampton Town Council views significant remains as the coffin still partially or wholly intact.

19.2 We invite consultees' views on whether there is a case for the Secretary of State to be able to permit certain cemeteries to reuse graves after a shorter period of time in exceptional circumstances, and where the people making burials in the graves which are to be reused consent to it.

Okehampton Town Council thinks there is a case for the Secretary of State to permit the reuse of graves in a shorter time period in exceptional circumstances.

20. We provisionally propose that, in any extension of grave reuse and burial right extinguishment powers, notices should be posted:

- a) on the burial ground operator's website if they have one;
- b) in local newspapers;
- c) by the grave and entrances to the cemetery; and
- d) should be sent to the last known address of the owner of the burial rights and memorial.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

20.1 We provisionally propose that one notice should suffice for both grave reuse and extinguishing burial rights.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

21. We provisionally propose that in any extension of grave reuse powers, remains which are moved in order to reuse a grave must be either reinterred in the original grave, or in another grave in the same cemetery, below the level of the ground in a grave consisting wholly or substantially of earth.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

22. We provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be required to keep a register of disinterments.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

23. We provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be required to disclose the fact that a grave has been reused or reclaimed to potential purchasers.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

24. We provisionally propose that burial ground operators should be able to apply to the Secretary of State for a decision enabling them to extinguish burial rights in graves and reuse graves, on a case-by-case basis.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

24.1 We invite consultees' views on whether applications for grave reuse and reclamation powers should be made:

- a) by each burial authority to cover all of their burial grounds; or
- b) for each burial ground individually.

B

24.2 We provisionally propose that an application for grave reuse and reclamation powers should be accompanied by:

- a) a grave reuse and reclamation plan setting out any additional mitigation proposed and identifying the graves which are intended to be affected; and
- b) the results of a consultation with those living near the burial ground and those with friends or relatives buried in the burial ground.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Okehampton Town Council agrees with A and B apart from those living near the burial grounds who they feel do not need to be consulted.

Closure and reopening of burial grounds

25. We provisionally propose that a burial ground, or any other specified area, should be closed to new interments by a decision of the Secretary of State, rather than by Order in Council.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Don't know

26. We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should have the power to close a burial ground where:

a) there is no useable space for new burials in graves which are free from exclusive burial rights;

b) the legal minimum standard of maintenance or burial specifications have not been complied with; or

c) the burial ground represents a risk to public health.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

26.1 We invite consultees' views as to whether there are other reasons why a burial ground should be closed to new interments.

Okehampton Town Council has can add no other reasons.

26.2 We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State must post notice of the intention to close a burial ground at the entrances to the burial ground, and in the London Gazette, for two months before a burial ground can be closed.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Okehampton Town Council thinks it should be advertised in the local paper to the burial ground rather than the London Gazette

27. We provisionally propose that the fault element of the offence of burying a body in a closed burial ground should be knowledge that the burial ground has been closed to further burials.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

27.1 We provisionally propose that the maximum sentence for the offence of burying a body in a closed burial ground is increased to level 3 on the standard scale of fines, which is currently set at £1,000.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

28. We provisionally propose that the existing exceptions to the power to close a burial ground to new interments should be ended, and that the existing exemption in relation to burials with the approval of the Sovereign in St Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey should be extended to include all royal peculiars.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Don't know

29. We provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should have the power to reopen burial grounds which have been closed to new interments, with the agreement of the burial ground owner, or the incumbent. Burial grounds could be reopened in full, or partially by reference to a particular area or purpose.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know Yes

30. We provisionally propose that where a closed Church of England churchyard is reopened, any local authority which has become legally responsible for its maintenance should continue to have that responsibility.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

30.1 We invite consultees' views on whether Church of England fees for funerals and burial should be shared with local authorities, or whether an additional fee payable to local authorities should be charged, in relation to reopened churchyards.

Okehampton Town Council thinks the fees should be payable to whoever has the legal responsibility for the reopened churchyard.

31. We invite consultees' views on whether the Church in Wales should be able to transfer the responsibility for maintaining its churchyards and burial grounds to the community council or county council, on the same model as in place in England.

Okehampton Town Council thinks the model should be the same for England and Wales to avoid confusion.

Exhumation and building on disused burial grounds

32. We provisionally propose that the fault element required for the commission of the offence of unlawful exhumation should be recklessness.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

33. We provisionally propose that the maximum penalty for unlawful exhumation should be an unlimited fine on summary conviction, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both, on indictment.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

34. We provisionally propose that the offence of exhuming human remains without authorisation should include removing human remains from the grave without lifting those remains above ground (so-called "coffin sliding").

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

35. We provisionally propose that there should be an exception to the exhumation offence where the exhumation is authorised by a police officer of at least the rank of Inspector, who has reasonable grounds to believe that an exhumation is urgently necessary to prevent forensic evidence from being lost.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

36. We provisionally propose that the scheme in the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 permitting building on a disused burial ground and exhumation without a licence or faculty, where notice requirements are met, should be extended to all private and local authority burial grounds.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

No

36.1 We invite consultees' views on the appropriate period of time during which an objection by the personal representative or close relatives of a deceased person should prevent building works from taking place on the burial ground in which they are interred. Should it be:

- a) 50 years;
- b) 75 years;
- c) 100 years; or
- d) another period?

75 years

36.2 We provisionally propose that it should be a criminal offence to fail to comply with directions issued by the Secretary of State as to how remains exhumed for development purposes should be reinterred or cremated, with a maximum sentence of an unlimited fine on summary conviction, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both, on indictment.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

The cremation process

43. We invite consultees' views as to whether any new legal requirements at crematoria or burial grounds could help to address the problem of mistaken cremations or burials, and if so, what those requirements could be.

No response

44. We invite evidence from consultees as to whether, in relation to direct cremation, there are cases where the applicant for cremation will not know which crematorium will be used at the time of application. If there are, we invite consultees' views on whether the cremation forms should be amended to accommodate this practice.

Okehampton Town Council thinks this should not be amended and for traceability purposes the application should contain the crematorium being used.

45. We invite consultees' views on the position in the current law that the rules which govern who can apply for cremation, and collect the ashes, are different from the rules which govern who has the legal right to make decisions about dead bodies. We invite consultees to tell us of their experience of the current law and of any problems that they have encountered as a result.

Okehampton Town Council thinks the rules should stay the same as they currently are.

45.1 We invite consultees' views as to whether the current law strikes the right balance between certainty as to who can apply and receive the ashes, and flexibility in ensuring that a timely funeral happens.

No response

46. We invite consultees' views on which relationships between two deceased people should mean the law permits their bodies to be cremated together, provided both applicants for cremation give their written consent.

No response

47. We provisionally propose that it should be a requirement that ashes from a cremation should be removed from the cremator before another cremation occurs.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

48. We provisionally propose that:

- a) neither cremation nor any other irreversible funerary method should be permitted in relation to unidentified bodies or body parts; and
- b) before any unidentified bodies or body parts are buried, a DNA sample should be taken for storage on the national central database held by the UK Missing Persons Unit.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

49. We provisionally propose that the Department for Health and Social Care should issue new guidance transferring ownership of any pacemakers in relation to which the HN(83)6 consent forms were signed from the NHS to funeral directors.

We provisionally propose that, where any funeral director holds a pacemaker which was removed prior to the new guidance being issued, and where they hold a record linking the pacemaker to a specific deceased person:

- a) they must post a notice stating that they hold pacemakers removed from bodies of deceased people prior to cremation, and the date range within which they were removed, and that they intend to dispose of them if they are not claimed. The notice should be placed on their website and visibly at their offices;
- b) in order to claim a pacemaker a person should have to provide the funeral director with evidence that they are the deceased person's relative, using the definition used in LACO 1977, or that they were their cohabitant until they died; and
- c) three months after the notice is posted, if the pacemakers are not claimed, the funeral director may dispose of them as they see fit.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

49.1 We provisionally propose that, in circumstances where funeral directors hold a pacemaker but do not hold a record linking it with a specific deceased person, they should be able to dispose of the pacemakers as they see fit without issuing a notice.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

No

Where cremations can happen

50. We invite consultees' views on whether the rule that a crematorium cannot be constructed within 200 yards of a dwelling house without the agreement of the owner, occupier and lessee, or within 50 yards of a public highway, should be repealed, or retained.

Okehampton Town Council thinks this rule should be retained for air quality purposes.

50.1 If the rule is retained, we invite consultees' views on whether the distance should be measured from the buildings equipped for cremation, and any other buildings or structures ancillary to the process, or from another location.

Okehampton Town Council's view is that the distance should be measured from the building equipped for cremation.

50.2 If the rule is retained, we provisionally propose that the Secretary of State should have to certify a crematorium before it can be used. It should be a requirement for certification to be granted that the plans for the crematorium must have been approved before construction as not breaching the rule.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

51. We provisionally propose removing the restriction on constructing a crematorium on the consecrated part of a local authority burial ground.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

The treatment of ashes after collection from crematoria

52. We provisionally propose that, where a funeral director has held ashes for at least four weeks and wishes to return them to the cremation authority:

a) the funeral director must take reasonable steps to contact the applicant for cremation to determine whether they want to collect the ashes, or want the funeral director to return the ashes to the crematorium;

b) if no response is received within four weeks, the funeral director should have the right to return the ashes to the crematorium where the cremation took place;

the cremation authority should have a statutory duty to accept the return of the ashes to them by the funeral director; and

c) where ashes have been returned to the crematorium, the existing process for dealing with uncollected ashes should apply.

Do consultees agree? Yes No Don't Know

Yes

53. Are consultees aware of legal mechanisms that have been used to try to prevent ash scattering, and if so, do consultees know whether these measures have been effective?

No response

54. We invite consultees' views on which of the following two options they prefer. Either:

a) Option 1: authorisation should be required to remove ash remains from a place of burial when: the ashes are likely to be identifiable. This means that they are separable from the earth, and that their identity within a plot of land can be ascertained; and those who interred the ashes intended that they should remain identifiable; or

b) option 2: authorisation should be required to remove ash remains from a place of burial when: ashes are interred in a container; or ashes are interred in land where an exclusive burial right exists.

Option 2

52.1 We invite consultees' views on whether there should be any more circumstances in which authorisation is required to exhume ashes under the second test (that is, "Option 2" above).

None

The impact of our provisional proposals

55. We invite consultees' views on:

a) whether there are circumstances or places in England and Wales where it is difficult for people to find a burial space in locations of their choice;

b) whether our provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper would help to address the availability of burial space;

c) what impact our provisional proposals in this Consultation Paper might have on reducing distress to family and friends of deceased people; and

d) whether more comprehensive or frequent collection of data on burial grounds would be of practical value. No response

56. We invite evidence from consultees on:

- a) their general perception of the affordability of burial and cremation;
- b) the contribution that burial costs and burial plot fees make to the costs that families and friends bear when organising a funeral; and
- c) the impact that our proposed reforms might have on reducing or increasing these costs.

Okehampton Town Council believes there should be a minimum standard of funeral across the country with a standard cost, then extras can be added on top if families so wished. This would enable families to prepare for the cost of a funeral knowing before the event how much it would cost. The Council also thought there should be a professional body that all undertakers belong to which should remove the issue of a surprise cost to the family.

57. We invite evidence from consultees on:

- a) the costs and benefits private burial grounds are likely to see as a result of our provisional proposals;
- b) the costs and benefits funeral directors are likely to see as a result of our provisional proposals; and
- c) any benefits or costs that are likely to arise if the rules on the siting of crematoria were repealed.

No response

58. We invite evidence from consultees on:

- a) the scale of any benefits that are likely to accrue to local authorities if they obtain grave reuse and reclamation powers;
- b) the likely additional cost of maintaining Church of England churchyards if they are reopened, and the level of fees that would be required in order to mitigate that cost;
- c) the cost to Welsh local authorities if maintenance responsibility for Church in Wales churchyards could be transferred under the law; and
- d) any impact on local authorities that might arise from repealing the rule on the siting of crematoria.

No response

59. We invite consultees' views on the potential impact of our provisional proposals on costs to Government, and other operators and owners of burial grounds and crematoria.

No response

Please use this space to tell us anything you wish us to know which is not addressed elsewhere in this consultation.

10.4 Cemetery Fees and Charges 2025/26 – To review the fees and charges for the coming financial year, the recommendation of the Cemetery Working Group being that they remain as existing.



Okehampton Town Council

Okehampton Town Council

Cemetery Schedule of Fees and Payments – April 2024

FEES AND PAYMENTS are settled under Section 34 of the Burial Act by Okehampton Town Council, effective on and from 1st April 2024. Cheques are to be made payable to Okehampton Town Council.

1. INTERMENTS	Resident	Non-Resident
a. For interment of a coffin in an earthen plot, at single or double depth	£200.00	£400.00
b. For interment of a coffin in an earthen plot, at single or double depth, for a person whose age at time of death did not exceed 18 years	No charge	£50.00
c. For interment of cremated human remains in a burial plot If cremated remains are interred into a full grave space, no further coffin burials can <u>ever</u> take place within that plot	£120.00	£300.00
d. For interment of cremated human remains in a cremation plot	£100	£200
e. Scattering of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance	£40	£80

The fees cover Okehampton Town Council's administration and associated costs. They do not include any excavation work which should be arranged and paid for through the undertaker, or service fees.

2. EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL IN EARTHEN GRAVES	Resident	Non-Resident
a. Purchase of single plot (up to two burials deep)	£500.00	£1,225.00
b. Purchase of a single plot (up to two burials deep) for a person whose age at time of death did not exceed 18 years	£0.00	£50.00
c. Purchase of a plot for person who age at the time of death did not exceed 12 months	£0.00	£50.00
d. Purchase of a cremation plot (up to two cremations deep)	£200.00	£400.00
e. Extension of Grant for a further 10 years	£170.00	£808.00
f. Assignment to second party	£75.00	£188.00

- The purchase of a plot means that you purchase the exclusive right of burial of a grave but do not actually buy the land that the grave occupies. Purchase means that no burials can take place in that plot without your permission and it gives you the right to purchase a permit to place a memorial on the grave. You may purchase a grave in Okehampton Cemetery for a period of 30 years. At the end of the lease the rights to the grave will revert to the Council, and any memorial on the grave may be removed. Leases may be extended during their lifetime but can only be extended back to the original 30 years. The fee shall be applicable to the residency applying at the time the extension is applied for, not the residency at the time of the original application.
- In the case of the person being under the age of 18 years at the time of death, as at b. and c., the full fee for an extension of the grant applies.
- A grave can be purchased for the reservation of future burials
- Fees include the charge for the Certificate of Grant.
- The Council cannot guarantee the suitability of a plot to be used for multiple interments.

3.	MEMORIAL STONES AND INSCRIPTIONS	Resident	Non-Resident
a.	Memorial Stone or Scroll Book (not exceeding 0.91m high x 0.61m wide (3ft x 2ft))	£140.00	£350.00
b.	Tablet (not exceeding 0.48m x 0.48m (1½ ft x 1½ ft))	£60.00	£150.00
c.	Removal of memorial stone for the reopening of a grave or addition of a subscription	£0.00	£0.00
d.	Plaque for Garden of Remembrance (provided by Okehampton Town Council)	£30	£60
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees include the first and subsequent inscriptions which are to be arranged by the purchaser • Memorial stones and scrolls are not permitted to be placed on cremation plots. • Memorial stones on a child's plot must not exceed 0.61m high x 0.48m wide (2ft x 1½ ft) • Tablets must lie flush with the grass • In order to apply for a permit to place a memorial on a grave, exclusive right of burial must have been purchased • Permission must be sought from the Council for removal of the memorial stone for any purpose 			

4.	OTHER CHARGES	
a.	Search Fees (for burials within Okehampton Town Council's Cemetery only)	£15.00
Records prior to 1 st April 2021 are provided from information recorded in the Burial Register by Northmoor Team Ministry who were responsible for the burials prior to that date.		

5.	DEFINITIONS AND NOTES
a.	A Resident is someone who pays their council tax in the civil parish of Okehampton Town (not necessarily those who have an Okehampton postcode) unless they have moved to a Residential/Nursing Home indefinitely from an Okehampton Town address, in that case that they are a parishioner until death. Proof of previous address may be requested.
b.	Coffins made from biodegradable materials only are accepted. Non-standard coffins may incur an additional fee.
c.	Provision of a scattering lawn is being progressed, the fees and charges within this schedule will be applicable once the facility is available for use.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
<p>Okehampton Town Council Town Hall Fore Street Okehampton EX20 1AA</p> <p>01837 53179 cemetery@okehampton.gov.uk www.okehampton.gov.uk</p>

11. Other Areas and Updates

11.2 Dog Waste Bin – To consider a request from a member of the public for the provision of an additional or larger bin to provided at the junction of Chichacott Lane and Crediton Road.

I have been given your email address by the clerk of Okehampton Hamlets. I approached her about the state of the dog bin on the corner of Chichacott lane and Crediton Road. Previously I raised this with West Devon who told me to contact the Hamlets but they say it is in your jurisdiction

The dog bin needs to be larger or be made into a double. Due to all of the new houses the bin is frequently overflowing and this is not a very good look for Okehampton

I will approach the Hamlets yet again to ask about them erecting a bin in their new estates as well

Looking forward to your reply

Whilst this bin is within the town boundary is it not the responsibility of, or paid for, by the Town Council. It was originally provided by WDBC who pay for its emptying, and it is understood that it is scheduled to be emptied 3 times p/week.

The cost to OTC for the emptying of dog bins is approximately £3.15 per bin each time they are emptied (1 bin x 1 empty p/week costs £163.80 p/annum)

11.3 Bus Shelter – To consider a proposal for the installation of a bus shelter in Exeter Road

The following correspondence has been received from Fernbank Advertising who have recently replaced bus shelters in Okehampton. Permission would be required to be obtained from Devon Highways:

A bus shelter has been proposed to go in near Costcutter at this location: [Exeter Rd - Google Maps](#) rather than here: [4 Exeter Rd - Google Maps](#) because it removes the need for vehicles to overtake buses prior to the pedestrian crossing.

TYPE	Tranche	Installation Date	Atco code	Column1	SMS code	Stop name	Road	Town	Postcode	Flags and cases
SHELTER	Tranche 4	On Order	1100DEA57234		dvngptmw	Okehampton Costcutter (E-bound)	Exeter Road	Okehampton	EX20 1QE	Services: 6A 178 670 671

Extra info	Highways NHO	Electoral Division	Url	What 3 Words	X (Easting), Y (Northing)
Request for shelter from MOP. Private land prior to, but could look at something after the crossing. Looks busy on Street view.	Tristan Allen	Okehampton Rural	Link	letters.transmitted.recitals	259807 , 095390