



Penn Road Cemetery Consultation 2021

Opens: 17 November 2021

Closes: 1 December 2021

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Overview

What is the purpose of this consultation?

Buckinghamshire Council are preparing to open the new Penn Road Cemetery, Hazlemere. The new cemetery will operate as part of a combined cemetery facility (alongside High Wycombe Cemetery) for the High Wycombe town area providing burial space primarily (although not exclusively) for the unparished area of High Wycombe.

We are currently consulting key stakeholders and partners on the core arrangements for the new cemetery to help inform the services that we will provide.

How to provide feedback

You can get involved in the consultation by:

- Completing the survey below or online at <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>

What happens next

The results of this survey will be used to help us finalise plans to deliver services at the new Penn Road Cemetery.

High Wycombe Town Committee will review arrangements for the cemetery and proposed fees and charges at their meeting in early 2022.

The opening of the new cemetery is currently planned from 1st April 2022.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this consultation. We will keep the information confidential and store it securely, in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#).

If you have questions, please email us on dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. or write to our Data Protection Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF.

Consultation Survey

About you

1. What is your name?

2. What is your email address?

3. What is your area/Ward?

4. In what role are you responding to this consultation?

Please feel free to complete the survey more than once if you have several roles.

- ☐ Representative of a religious organisation
- ☐ Representative of a community group
- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Business operator
- ☐ Ward Councillor
- ☐ Parish / Town council
- ☐ Representative of a charity
- ☐ Other (please give details below)

The proposal

Consecrated Ground

Consecrated ground is ground that has already been made or declared sacred or holy by the Church of England prior to use, and is therefore suitable for Church of England burials. The existing High Wycombe Cemetery has a large area of available burial space that has been consecrated by the Church of England which means that Church of England consecrated burials can continue on this site for many years to come.

The Council is not proposing to consecrate land at Penn Road cemetery at the moment, but subject to any future decision making by the Council and equalities impact assessment, the Council may carry out consecration at a future date, if and when required.

This approach means that we can be flexible about how we use the available cemetery space across the two sites and cater to a wide range of religious and cultural requirements.

5. Do you agree with this approach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Please provide comments/evidence to support your views.

Scattering of ashes

The Council is not proposing to provide a service for the scattering of cremated remains at Penn Road Cemetery.

However, the Cemetery will offer columbarium for long-term lease which are memorials for holding cremated remains (ashes). At the end of a lease period cremated remains which are not claimed by a family member or nominated person will be scattered in a small designated and signposted area of the cemetery in a woodland garden of remembrance.

This means that we can ensure that ashes that are not claimed at the end of a lease period can be suitably laid to rest.

7. Do you agree with this approach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Please provide comments/evidence to support your views.

Vault/chamber burials

At High Wycombe cemetery the Council currently offers burials in concrete chambers. Concrete chambers have been a good option for this cemetery because of the steep made up ground on the site.

At Penn Road cemetery, where the ground is level and flat, the Council would prefer to offer polypropylene vaults/chambers for families that would like their loved ones to be buried in a vault/chamber.

Polypropylene vaults are used by a large number of cemeteries across the country and cater for a range of religious and cultural beliefs. They take up less space in the cemetery, can be installed at the time of burial (rather than in advance) and are lighter which means they can be more easily installed with less labour required. They are extremely durable and can withstand pressures in excess of 3 tonnes so offer a strong solution to help avoid ground sinking and collapsing. They are also slightly cheaper than concrete vaults.

9. Do you agree with this approach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. Please provide comments/evidence to support your views.

Shroud burials

A burial shroud is a cloth that's wrapped around the deceased person's body before burial. Shroud burials are customary in many religions, including in Christian, Muslim, and Orthodox Jewish faiths. As well as reflecting cultural and religious practices and beliefs, shrouds can be less damaging to the environment than traditional burials.

The Council proposes to offer shroud burials for those that would like them, either with or without a vault/chamber, dependent on requirements and health and safety implications. The location and design of the Penn Road cemetery site means that shroud burials can be offered in a part of the cemetery that is away from nearby housing and rights of way.

11. Do you agree with this approach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

12. Please provide comments/evidence to support your views.

Burial plots for cremated remains (ashes)

Penn Road Cemetery will offer columbarium for long-term lease which are memorials for holding cremated remains (ashes).

At High Wycombe cemetery the Council currently offers burial plots for ashes and has a large area of available burial space for ashes.

The Council is not proposing to offer specific burial plots for ashes at Penn Road Cemetery at the moment but will look to provide them at a future date when and if required.

13. Do you agree with this approach?

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. Please provide comments/evidence to support your views.

Additional comments

15. Please provide any other comments/suggestions you may have about the arrangements at Penn Road Cemetery.

Thank you for completing the consultation survey.