

CHILTERN'S CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

MEETING 12TH FEBRUARY 2014

OPEN REPORT OF THE CLERK TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT

5. REVIEW OF MEMORIALS

5.1 When the Chilterns Crematorium was built in the 1960's in keeping with many crematoria, especially those operated by local authorities, memorial options were limited. Quite a number only offered the Book of Remembrance but at Chilterns a memorial-rose scheme was also provided. At that time roses were synonymous with after-cremation commemoration and a point of interest is that the roses were planted immediately after the site had been cleared, before construction started, and the Joint Committee's first employee was a part-time gardener to look after them.

5.2 Since the 1960s there has been a gradual change in memorial provision. A number of factors have driven this including: i) an expansion of private sector crematoria with a more commercial emphasis on memorial provision, ii) financial stringencies putting pressure on the public sector to find ways of generating new income, and iii) contemporary public expectation of being able to choose from a range of memorial options. This in turn has led to an increasing number of suppliers emerging with 'new innovations' in after-cremation memorials.

5.3 In the last twenty years two new memorials have been added at Chilterns - the stone memorial plaque was introduced onto additional land purchased in the 1990s and more recently in 2000 the leather plaque was provided in conjunction with building the new chapel of remembrance.

5.4 **The main reason for this review is to consider, in the light of current factors impacting on after-cremation commemoration, whether or not the Joint Committee wishes to consider introducing additional memorial schemes. In this regard the report is intended as the basis for a discussion to gauge the view of the Joint Committee.** If it is the wish that a new scheme or schemes is/are introduced this will then be the subject of a more detailed report to a future meeting.

5.5 The report also deals with the **poor condition of the roses** which is dealt with specifically and includes a recommendation.

5.6 The report is included as an **APPENDIX**.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **That the proposals to replace the rose bed memorial scheme as outlined in the report be approved.**
2. **That the Joint Committee considers if it wishes to introduce a new memorial scheme at the Crematorium. Any new scheme indicated will be the subject of a more detailed report to a future meeting.**

Background papers: None