

Committee: Environment Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 22 January 2008

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Title: SAFFRON WALDEN CEMETERY, REVIEW
OF FEES AND CHARGES.

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Item for decision

Summary

- 1 In accordance with the Scrutiny review, fees and charges are reviewed annually for Saffron Walden Cemetery to keep pace with inflation and external influences as well as attempting to recover cost of provision.

Recommendations

- 2 a) That Members approve the proposed charges for 2008/9 for Saffron Walden Cemetery attached to this report.
b) That exclusive right of burial lease is set at 50 years and exclusive right of burial for cremated remains is set at 20 years, both of these would be extendable in their final year by a period of 5 years at a cost proportionate to the charge applicable at the time.

Background Papers

- 3 The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author.
 - Last years approved charges
 - Research from providers of similar services

Impact

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Communication/Consultation	Customers will be advised of any charge at point of commissioning, council's fees and charges available on web site.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	Charging will contribute to the cost of service provision

Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Ward-specific impacts	Saffron Walden
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

- 5 Saffron Walden Cemetery is a pleasant well established facility that has undergone incremental improvement, review and innovation in recent years.
- 6 The 2006/7 outturn shows an income of £28,659 and gross expenditure of £63,675 whist there is been an improving recovery rate it continues to run at a deficit.
- 7 Benchmarking is particularly difficult in this area as there are diverse approaches to pricing structure from differing providers. However, selective benchmarking evidences that our charges are on the slightly lower side.
- 8 Additionally, the exclusive right of burial lease is out of step, our leases have until now been for 99 years however, a 50 year lease is more common for a burial plot and 20 years for cremated remains. The attached table introduces the new lease period for Member approval.

Targets

- 9 It is essential to keep pace with inflation and address the particular items that differ largely from the benchmark providers.

Pay-Offs/Penalties

- 10 Approval of a charging structure will aid recovery of the cost of the service.

Risk Analysis

- 11 The following have been assessed as the potential risks associated with this issue.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That they may be complaints from the community.	Low	Low	Charges remain in balance with other facilities.
Costs may be incurred by the local taxpayer if the services are not self supporting.	Low	Low	Adoption of a charging structure that seeks to recover an increasing proportion of the service.

RADWINTER ROAD CEMETERY		Proposed residents	Non resident
FEES AND CHARGES	2007-8	2008-9	2008-9
BURIALS LAWN SECTION			
Interment (Adult)	£268.00 *	£275.00	£550.00
Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial (Adult) 50 Years	£353.00 *	£410.00	£820.00
Interment (Stillborn to 16 years)	£0.00	£0.00	£275.00
Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial (Stillborn to 16 years)	£0.00	£0.00	£390.00
Purchase of two adjoining grave spaces	£921.00 *	£945.00	£1,890.00
Permit for placement of Memorial	£81.00	£84.00	£84.00
TRADITIONAL AREA BURIALS			
Interment (Adult)	£268.00 *	£275.00	£550.00
Purchase of Traditional Exclusive Right of Burial 50 years	£643.00 *	£665.00	£1,330.00
<i>Additional choices available in association with Traditional area:</i>			
Adjacent to Path plot within Traditional area	£428.00 *	£440.00	£880.00
Permit for placement of memorial up to 1.45m (h) 750mm (w) 75mm to 150mm (d)	£161.00	£166.00	£166.00
Permit placement of full kerbset (includes memorial) 750mm (w) 1800 (L)	£214.00	£220.00	£220.00
CREMATED ASHES			
Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial in the Garden of Remembrance 20 years	£193.00 *	£198.00	£396.00
Interment of Ashes	£86.00 *	£89.00	£178.00
Scattering of Cremated Remains	£54.00 *	£55.00	£110.00
Provision and Erection of Plaque. plus cost of plaque. (+VAT)	£86.00	£88.00	£88.00
Additional			
Use of Cemetery Chapel (to include use of organ)	£107.00	£107.00	£107.00
Saturday Interment	£97.00 *	£100.00	£200.00
Additional Inscription	£44.00	£45.00	£45.00
<i>Adult resident charge will apply to non-resident under 16 years</i>			
<i>* These charges show the reduced charge if the deceased was in permanent residence in Uttlesford at time of death. Should the deceased have resided in the district for more than 20 years and moved from the district to receive care within the last five years they shall be regarded as resident subject to provision of evidence by the family.</i>			