



## BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

**PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BELOW STATUTORY PROVISIONS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE IS TO BE HELD ON A HYBRID BASIS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, KING SQUARE, BARRY, CF63 4RW AND REMOTELY ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSACTING THE BUSINESS SHOWN IN THE AGENDA SET OUT BELOW.**

**From 1 May 2021 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021** makes provision for meetings to take place through a variety of arrangements, including multi-location meetings where all individuals are attending virtually and hybrid meetings where a number of individuals are attending in person at a designated location and others are attending virtually from a range of other locations. The Act makes permanent provision for remote meetings (multi-location) and electronic publication of documents

**This is a public meeting and any resident of Barry may attend in person or remotely; for remote access details, please contact [info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk)**

Yours faithfully

Rachel Honey-Jones  
Town Clerk/Chief Officer

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct**

(Note Members seeking advice on this item are requested to contact the Monitoring Officer at least 72 hours before the meeting)

To Note: Councillor Johnson has been granted dispensation to speak and vote on matters relating to community centres when being discussed at Barry Town Council meetings.

To Note: Councillor EJ Goodjohn has been granted dispensation to speak and vote on matters relating to community centres when being discussed at Barry Town Council meetings.

To Note: Councillor Hennessy has been granted dispensation to speak and vote on matters relating to community centres when being discussed at Barry Town Council meetings.

3. **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** (To note)

Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities members will note that this Act sets out the requirement for a public body to act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4. **Standing Order 3(o)** (To Note)

The use of cameras, camcorders and other recording devices in all Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings is expressly forbidden, with the exception of any formal recording of proceedings in accordance with the Council's policy, should the Council instigate such a policy.

5. **To approve the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries & Community Facilities Committee held on 20 January 2026**

(Pages 576 - 581)

6. **Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2026** (Pages 582 - 583)

(If Councillors have any queries on the attached please contact the Deputy Chief Officer prior to the meeting)

**7. Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial (1662 – 1669 inclusive)**

That in accordance with Standing Order 27(a), authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Transfer Deeds numbered **1662 – 1669** inclusive, granting the Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial to those named on each transfer request.

**8. Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial (14093 – 14094 inclusive)**

That in accordance with Standing Order 27(a), authority be given for the Council's Common Seal to be applied to Deeds of Exclusive Right of Burial numbered **14093 – 14094** inclusive, granting the Exclusive Right of Burial to those named on the interment form.

**9. Cemetery Update (Pages 584 - 585)**

**10. Facilities Update (Pages 586 - 587)**

**11. Replacement Boundary Planting (Pages 588 - 590)**

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee will be agreed at the Annual Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 12 May 2026.

**Distribution**

Email notification of electronic papers to all Barry Town Councillors (22). A full copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting (with the exception of confidential items) will be available at the Town Council Offices for inspection; electronic copies to Barry & District News, Glamorgan Star and Barry Library.

**This document is available in large print and other formats upon request/Cewch y ddogfen hon mewn pring bras a ffor matiau eraill drwy holi.**

## **BARRY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2026 AT 7:00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N Hodges (Chairperson) together with Councillors Aviet, Clarke (Town Mayor Ex-Officio), E J Goodjohn and McKinney.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Rachel Honey-Jones – Chief Officer  
Thomas Thorne – Cemeteries Manager  
Kathryn Thomas – Office Manager  
Councillor S Hodges – Observer  
Councillor Payne – Observer

**A209. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Hennessy.

**A210. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

**A211. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

**RESOLVED:** that the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be received and noted.

**A212. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025**

The Deputy Chief Officer/ RFO will follow up with the Vale of Glamorgan the proposed increase in Porthkerry Cemetery fees and in particular the excavation fees.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee held on 18 November 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**A213. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Members were provided with a report outlining the Committee's income and expenditure in the 2025/26 financial year as at the end of December 2025.

There is an overspend of £27,984.00 due to money spent on Security and Tree Maintenance however the Deputy Chief Officer / RFO is currently working on the budgets. This overspend has reduced from previously considered by committee which was originally an overspend of £45,000.

**RESOLVED:** That the budget monitoring report to 31 December 2025 be received noting the projected net overspend of £27,984 in 2025/26.

**A214. TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL**

**RESOLVED:** that the Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burial (1655 – 1661 inclusive) be granted to those named on each transfer request.

**A215. GRANTS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL**

**RESOLVED:** that the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial (14084 – 14092 inclusive) be granted to those named on the interment forms.

**A216. CEMETERIES UPDATE**

The Cemeteries Manager presented the report to the committee.

Three quotations for Cemetery Plant Machinery have been received for the long-term hire of replacement plant machinery and we are waiting on a costs from each on the purchase of our existing machinery, which will be used to offset the cost of the new hire arrangements.

The Green Flag application has been sent.

Councillor N Hodges asked if the assessors were planning on a site visit around the Cemetery this year?

The Cemeteries Manager said he believed so.

Councillor N Hodges said he would be happy to attend and provide additional information if required.

Other updates included Health Surveillance tests for all Cemetery and Facilities staff, there are some minor actions that need to be taken as a result, but most members of staff passed all tests.

Bench Installations – now moving into the third phase, we will continue to purchase new benches in the next financial year.

Memorial Testing, after the success of last year's memorial testing, we have continued to follow the same procedure, we have significantly more memorials to test this year, but with three members of staff qualified as memorial testers have sufficient capacity.

The previously agreed tree felling work is still ongoing. This work should be completed in the coming months, at which point the committee will

need to make a decision with regards to what is going to replace the felled trees.

Currently liaising with the Vale of Glamorgan's Local Nature partnership with regards to grant funding to support improvements in both Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, and Cemetery Approach Gardens. We continue to seek assistance from a temporary gravedigger / Cemetery operative as a result of the ongoing staffing pressures.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the advert has gone out for 2 new gravediggers and is hoping that by April 2026 we should be up to full complement of staff

**RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.**

**A217. FACILITIES UPDATE**

The Chief Officer gave members an update on Facilities including how successful the new online booking system has been for our Community Halls. We have taken twice as many bookings through the new system.

There are still a number of significant issues at Town Hall including a broken toilet, broken lights and sockets and the heating in the Chamber. In addition to these issues, the staircase leading to the first floor is currently out of use due to rain coming from the ceiling.

The Chief Officer and the Facilities Team Leader have contacted the Vale of Glamorgan daily to report these issues, but nothing has been resolved.

The Leader of the Council has contacted Lorna Cross (Senior Manager in the responsible department) at the Vale of Glamorgan.. The Chief Officer is genuinely concerned that the ceiling could cave in and cause significant injury. We have the Mayor Coffee Morning at the end of January, so ideally need to have this resolved before then.

Staff and visitors are currently using the lift to go up and down stairs, but it has been temperamental in the past and the significantly increased use of it may cause it to break down.

We had a Health & Safety Audit this week via Peninsula – out of all of the sections there were only 3 issued raised as red – all of these can almost immediately turn green as very minor issues

**RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.**

**A218. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

On 6 November 2025, a notice was placed on the Council’s website and on social media channels to inform the public of the proposed name changes at the Cemetery, and invite any feedback.

No feedback was received from the public, and no objections were raised to the proposed name changes.

It is therefore proposed that the following name changes be approved by members:

- The existing plaque planter currently located with the Garden of Remembrance will be renamed **Western Planter**
- The plaque planter located near the ‘newer’ Garden of Remembrance area will be renamed **Eastern Planter**
- The ‘newer’ Garden of Remembrance area will be renamed **Marble Garden**

**RESOLVED**

- That members receive and note the report
- That members approve the existing plaque planter currently located with the Garden of Remembrance will be renamed **Western Planter**
- That members approve the plaque planter located near the ‘newer’ Garden of Remembrance area will be renamed **Eastern Planter**
- That Members approve the ‘newer’ Garden of Remembrance area will be renamed **Marble Garden**

**A220. NEW PRICE BROCHURE**

Members were presented with a proposed price brochure which sets out the cemetery fees in a much more user-friendly way.

**RESOLVED:**

- That members receive and note the report
- That members approve the use of the new price brochure

**A221. HALLS MARKETING CAMPAIGN**

Members were presented with a proposed marketing campaign for the Cemetery Approach Community Centre and Pioneer Hall, with the aim of increasing bookings, raising awareness and generating additional income.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the report be received and noted

- That members approve the budget request of £1,000 for each hall be allocated within the current budget setting for 2026/27, as a new heading of Marketing.

**A222.      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the next meeting of the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee will be held on Monday 2 March 2026.

Meeting Closed at: 19:20

Signed ..... (Chairperson) Dated .....

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**ACTION SHEET - HALLS, CEMETERIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE - 20 January 2026**

MINUTE NO.	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY	DATE ACTION TO BE CARRIED OUT	PROGRESS
A218	That members approve the existing plaque planter currently located with the Garden of Remembrance will be renamed <b>Western Planter</b>	Cemetery Manager	23.01.26	Completed
A218	That members approve the plaque planter located near the 'newer' Garden of Remembrance area will be renamed <b>Eastern Planter</b>	Cemetery Manager	23.01.26	Completed
A218	That Members approve the 'newer' Garden of Remembrance area will be renamed <b>Marble Garden</b>	Cemetery Manager	23.01.26	Completed
A221	That members approve the budget request of £1,000 for each hall be allocated within the current budget setting for 2026/27, as a new heading of Marketing	RFO	01.04.26	ongoing

<b>HALLS, CEMETERIES &amp; COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>02 MARCH 2026</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 6</b>
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## **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT JANUARY 2026**

### **Report Author**

Rachel Williams, Finance Administrator

**Attached:** A. Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2026

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide members with the Committee's income and expenditure in the 2025/26 financial year as at the end of January 2026.

### **Background Information**

On the following page is the budget monitoring report to 31 January 2026, indicating actual income and expenditure up to the end of month ten in the 2025/26 financial year.

In addition, the projected out turn for the current financial year is provided highlighting any anticipated overspends and under-spends on various budget headings currently projecting a net underspend for the year of £52,495.

### **Recommendation**

Members are requested to receive the budget monitoring report for January 2026 noting the projected net underspend of £52,495 in 2025/26.

**Budget Monitoring Report to 31 January 2026**

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Gross Expenditure								
Description	Item No.	Budget	Expenditure	Committed	Balance	Budget	Year End	Projected
		12 Months	10 Months	Expenditure		For Year	Projections	Variance
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	1	410,000	312,508	58,815	38,677	410,000	371,323	38,677
Personal Hygiene Facilities	2	1,930	1,397	503	30	1,930	1,900	30
Personal Protective Equipment / Clothing	2	4,300	1,824	2,476	0	4,300	4,300	0
Cleaning Products	2	2,500	1,322	1,178	0	2,500	2,500	0
Rates	3	9,860	9,474	0	386	9,860	9,474	386
Water	4	3,235	1,797	1,438	0	3,235	3,235	0
Electricity	5	17,900	6,102	11,798	0	17,900	17,900	0
Gas	6	3,600	1,315	2,285	0	3,600	3,600	0
Telephone / Alarm Line	6	2,070	1,296	356	418	2,070	1,652	418
Property Maintenance and Improvements	7	46,940	31,548	9,392	6,000	46,940	40,940	6,000
Equipment	9	11,535	5,718	5,817	0	11,535	11,535	0
Plant & Equipment Maintenance	10	12,550	10,153	2,399	-2	12,550	12,552	-2
Internet Broadband	21	2,520	2,168	377	-25	2,520	2,545	-25
Horticulture	8	800	358	442	0	800	800	0
Vehicle Maintenance	11	3,400	2,165	1,235	0	3,400	3,400	0
Haulage and Fuel	12	6,200	3,606	1,394	1,200	6,200	5,000	1,200
Vehicle Tax and Insurance	13	780	348	349	83	780	697	83
Philadelphia Cemetery	14	500	0	0	500	500	0	500
Treework Maintenance	17	7,500	500	26,995	-19,995	7,500	27,495	-19,995
Cemetery Roads Maintenance	18	4,000	2,146	854	1,000	4,000	3,000	1,000
Memorial Safety Advertising	19	500	300	200	0	500	500	0
Subscriptions	20	760	430	330	0	760	760	0
Memorial Inspection Maintenance	25	5,000	69	-69	5,000	5,000	0	5,000
Cemetery Approach Gardens Property Maintenance	26	3,000	30	970	2,000	3,000	1,000	2,000
Bees at Cemetery	27	500	192	308	0	500	500	0
Miscellaneous	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Play Equipment	11	1,600	0	1,000	600	1,600	1,000	600
Online Charges re Website Bookings	13	480	152	328	0	480	480	0
PPLRS Licences	15	1,400	670	700	30	1,400	1,370	30
Cemetery Roads Improvement	4	23,460	23,460	0	0	23,460	23,460	0
Cemetery Benches	5	2,000	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Officers Travel and Subsistence	15	150	0	0	150	150	0	150
Community Groups Use of Hall (FOC)	16	1,800	1,836	648	-684	1,800	2,484	-684
Other Prof. Fees (Security)		0	11,728	0	-11,728	0	11,728	-11,728
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>592,770</b>	<b>434,612</b>	<b>132,518</b>	<b>25,640</b>	<b>592,770</b>	<b>567,130</b>	<b>25,640</b>

Gross Income								
Description	Item No.	Budget	Income	Income	Balance	Budget	Year End	Projected
		12 Months	10 Months	Expenditure		For Year	Projections	Variance
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interment Fees	1	59,825	59,015	0	-810	59,825	68,016	8,191
Exclusive Right of Burials	2	20,000	22,897	0	2,897	20,000	26,230	6,230
Memorial Fees	3	19,200	21,449	0	2,249	19,200	24,449	5,249
Transfer of Exclusive Right of Burials	4	2,700	2,117	0	-583	2,700	2,569	-131
Hire of Chapel	5	480	480	0	0	480	560	80
War Graves	6	78	78	0	0	78	78	0
Cemetery Lodge Rent	7	6,528	5,800	0	-728	6,528	6,960	432
Other Miscellaneous Income	8	500	2,865	0	2,365	500	2,948	2,448
Cemetery Improvement Fee *	9	3,120	2,665	0	-455	3,120	3,185	65
Assets Disposal Proceeds	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Porthkerry Agreement	3	15,842	15,842	0	0	15,842	15,842	0
Lettings	1	32,000	29,900	0	-2,100	32,000	36,290	4,290
Lettings - Old Pioneers Club via Grant	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>160,273</b>	<b>163,108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>160,273</b>	<b>187,128</b>	<b>26,855</b>

Net Expenditure								
Description	Item No.	Budget	Expenditure	Committed	Balance	Budget	Year End	Projected
		12 Months	10 Months	Expenditure		For Year	Projections	Variance
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>		<b>432,497</b>	<b>271,504</b>	<b>132,518</b>	<b>25,640</b>	<b>432,497</b>	<b>380,002</b>	<b>52,495</b>

Our net budget for the year is £432,497 with actual expenditure for the 10 months to 31 Jan 2026 of £271,504 and committed expenditure of £132,518.

Our projected out-turn for the year is to be underspend of £52,495 (£25,640 less expenditure and £26,855 more income).

\* Cemetery Improvement Fee of £65 per new grave to be credited to the Cemetery Improvement Reserve at year end.

<b>HALLS, CEMETERIES &amp; COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2 March 2026</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 9</b>
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## **CEMETERIES UPDATE**

### **Report Author**

Thomas Thorne, Cemeteries Manager

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Members of the Halls, Cemeteries & Community Facilities Committee with an update on the Cemetery since the last meeting on 20 January.

### **Background Information**

#### **Recruitment**

Two Gravedigger/Cemetery Operative positions have been successfully filled. The first new employee commenced duties on 16 February 2026, with the second due to commence on 23 February 2026. The recruitment process attracted a strong field of applicants and both successful candidates demonstrated a high standard during interview. They have been welcomed into the team and are settling into their roles well.

#### **Annual Tree Survey**

The annual tree survey has now been completed and, for the first time, included the tree located at Philadelphia Cemetery. The Council is awaiting the survey results and will respond appropriately to any recommendations arising from the inspection.

#### **Ongoing Tree Works**

JV Trees are continuing works to remove conifer trees along the boundary of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. The contractor anticipates completion within the next two months.

#### **Flagpole Survey**

The annual inspection in accordance with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) has been undertaken for all flagpoles operated by the Council. Minor issues were identified; however, these were cosmetic in nature and all flagpoles have been deemed safe for continued use.

## **Cross-Council Partnerships**

The Council continues to maintain positive working relationships with neighbouring authorities. Tonyrefail and District Community Council has approached us to collaborate on bereavement staff training, enabling shared costs for mandatory training and strengthening inter-authority cooperation. In addition, Cardiff Bereavement Services has offered operational assistance at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery to support service delivery and help ensure compliance requirements are met within the year.

## **Funeral Director and Memorial Masons Meeting**

A further liaison meeting has been arranged between the Chief Officer, Cemeteries Manager, Administration Team, local funeral directors, and memorial masons. This will be the second such meeting and provides an opportunity for local bereavement service providers to raise queries, share information, and support collaborative working practices. Following the positive feedback received after the first meeting, these sessions will continue regularly to strengthen working relationships with service users at both Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and Porthkerry Cemetery. The next meeting is scheduled for 23 March 2026.

## **Merthyr Dyfan Building Inspections**

All buildings at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery have been inspected by the Cemeteries Manager, Head of Community Services and Facilities, and the Facilities Team Leader. While a number of minor matters were identified, none were of significant concern. The majority have already been rectified, and the remaining items are scheduled for completion in the coming weeks.

## **Recommendation**

That members receive and note this report.

<b>HALLS, CEMETERIES &amp; COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2 MARCH 2026</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 10</b>
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## **FACILITIES UPDATE**

### **Report Author**

Chris Mason, Head of Community Services & Facilities

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide Members of the Halls, Cemeteries & Community Facilities Committee with an update on Halls and Facilities since the last meeting on 20 January 2026.

### **Background Information**

1. Lodge Drainage – a recent CCTV survey of the drainage pipes serving the Lodge has identified damage to three of the pipes which are classed as *‘Grade 4: Best Practice suggests consideration should be given to repairs to avoid a potential collapse.’* Officers are currently investigating the cost and feasibility of undertaking these repairs. This survey was undertaken as part of investigations into the potential cause of cracking in the building, and may be a contributing factor.
2. CACC Sound System – officers are currently in the process of arranging for the sound system to be updated and made more user-friendly for hirers. At least one of the speakers in the current system has blown and gives distorted sound, plus the Bluetooth system is not reliable or easy accessible to users. This work will be completed by the end of March.
3. CACC Plumbing – some remedial works are required to the plumbing in order to address concerns raised in our most recent Legionella inspection with regards to the construction of the pipework. Quotes are currently being sought for this work to be completed by the end of March.
4. PH Soft Play – the play equipment at Pioneer Hall requires updating to ensure that we maintain the standards expected by hirers, particularly in regards to birthday party bookings. New, commercial standard, soft play equipment will be ordered in the next few weeks.
5. Lightning Rod Inspection – the annual inspection of the Lightning Rod on the Chapel identified that some remedial works were required for it to be compliant. These have been completed by external contractors and a certificate of compliance has been issued.

6. New Caretaker – following a successful recruitment, a new Caretaker will be joining the team in the next few weeks, once transition arrangements from their current role have been agreed. This will return the Facilities team to full strength.
7. Town Hall Staircase – VOGC officers have confirmed to BTC that the cause of the water leak was a faulty boiler located within the roof void above the ceiling. Replacement of this boiler has been scheduled for early March, which should see an end to the issues with water ingress. Following this work, redecoration of the ceiling will need to be addressed.
8. Town Hall – there remain issues to be addressed in the offices, including a broken toilet, broken lights and sockets, and the heating in the Chamber. Investigation works continue in relation to the heating in the Chamber. Additionally, there are significant issues with the Front Door access to Town Hall, with the LHS door no longer able to be opened due to a faulty dampener arm linked to the entry system. BTC have been informed that a replacement system will be required which, due to the costs involved, will need to be tendered by VOGC. This creates on-going accessibility issues for those visiting BTC offices. All of these issues have been raised with VOGC but remain awaiting resolution. The Facilities Team Leader remains in regular contact with the VOGC officer to seek resolutions to the outstanding issues.

### **Recommendation**

That members receive and note this report.

<b>HALLS, CEMETERIES &amp; COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>2 March 2026</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 11</b>
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## **Replacement Boundary Planting – Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery**

### **Report Author**

Thomas Thorne, Cemeteries Manager

### **Purpose of Report**

To present Members with options for replacement planting along the boundary between Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and Buttrills Playing Field in order to maintain an appropriate level of privacy, security and environmental quality within the cemetery

### **Background information**

Following approval by Committee last year, and as identified through the Council's annual tree survey, a number of conifer trees located along the boundary between Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and Buttrills Playing Field are currently being felled due to condition and safety concerns.

In accordance with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's Charter for the Bereaved, burial grounds should be maintained and managed to provide a peaceful environment for mourners and visitors. The proximity of an active playing field has the potential to adversely affect this environment if adequate screening is not maintained.

Boundary planting serves several important functions:

- Provides visual privacy for visitors and mourners
- Reduces noise intrusion from external activities
- Enhances the character and setting of the cemetery
- Improves site security and discourages unauthorised access

Although a metal fence exists along the boundary, there have been instances of the fence being breached to gain entry outside permitted hours. Additional planting would create a physical and visual barrier, helping to deter inappropriate access.

### **Replacement Options**

The primary replacement options available are:

#### **1. Hedgerow Planting**

A hedge is already established along the boundary of the CR section and could be extended along the affected boundary.

A mixed native hedgerow is recommended, consisting of species such as:

- Hawthorn
- Blackthorn
- Holly
- Hazel

Advantages:

- Provides dense, continuous screening
- Greater visual privacy than spaced tree planting
- Acts as a deterrent to trespass
- Reduces future tree maintenance and inspection issues
- Enhances biodiversity through mixed native planting

## **2. Tree Line Planting**

Alternatively, the boundary could be replanted with native tree species. Both the Cemeteries Manager and Cllr Goodjohn have had discussions with The Vale of Glamorgan Local Nature Partnership. Advice provided suggests the following species would be appropriate:

- Dog Rose
- Hazel
- Beech whips

These native species would allow replacement planting without extensive ground disturbance from removal of existing root systems.

Help Habitat Aid can supply young trees (“whips”) at an approximate cost of £0.60–£0.80 per plant.

## **Funding Opportunities**

The Cemeteries Manager has held initial discussions with the Council’s Future Generations Project Officer regarding potential external funding opportunities. A number of environmental and biodiversity grant schemes may be available which could assist with the procurement and establishment of replacement boundary planting, irrespective of the option selected by Members. Further investigation will be undertaken once a preferred option has been agreed, with any available funding incorporated into the final proposal presented to Committee.

JV Trees have also offered assistance with planting regardless of what option is pursued.

These partnerships may help reduce implementation costs and support ecological benefits.

### **Next Steps**

Following Member direction on the preferred boundary treatment (hedge, tree line, or alternative), formal quotations will be obtained and presented to Committee for approval prior to implementation.

### **Recommendations**

1. That Members receive and note the report.
2. That Members determine the preferred boundary replacement option for the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery boundary with Buttrills Playing Field.