

Earley Town Council

Full Council Meeting – 26th July 2023

Agenda Item 9.

MAYS LANE CEMETERY – Extension Project Update

The results from the investigative work on the extension area have been received. The tests confirm that there are no issues with chemical contamination but, as expected, there is a significant amount of debris such as pieces of concrete, cobbles, bricks etc in the soil.

In order to make the site acceptable for use as a cemetery, substantial remedial works will need to be undertaken to remove the debris; replace and compact the soil; create an access road and parking area; and landscape the extension site. Officers are working with a company which specialises in creating new cemeteries to draw up a site layout and obtain quotes for the works. A figure for the total cost of the extension project is not yet available but an earmarked reserve is in place so that works can progress.

On 14th July 2023 the Town Clerk and Operations Manager arranged a site visit for the Cemetery working party to explain the works required in more detail and to discuss matters such as preferences for site layout and landscaping. It was agreed that the most eastern section, near the footbridge, will remain as woodland and that as much planting as possible will be retained around the perimeter. The extension will accommodate areas for burials, Muslim burials and the interment of cremated remains. We don't yet know the number of plots that will be created, we should have a clearer idea once progress has been made on the site layout. It is hoped that the cemetery extension will be fully open by Spring/Summer 2024.

The working group will be kept apprised of developments and will convene regularly. Updates will be provided to all councillors by way of committee agendas.

Jo Friend
Town Clerk
July 2023