

# Louth Town Council

The Sessions House, Eastgate,  
Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 9AJ

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## To the Members of the Town Council of Louth:

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Louth Town Council's Planning and Community Resources Committees which will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 in The Old Court Room, The Sessions House, Eastgate, Louth at 7pm. The business to be dealt with at the meeting is listed in the agenda below.

**There will be a 15 minute public forum between 6.45pm and 7.00pm when members of the public may ask questions or make short statements to the Council, and your attendance is requested during this period.**

*Please note, any public, wishing to speak in the public forum may do so on items which appear on the agenda or may 'sit in' on the meeting(s). It would be much appreciated if any member of the public wishing to speak would please contact the Town Clerk, by emailing [clerk@louthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@louthtowncouncil.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting to discuss attendance arrangements. If possible, please provide written representation rather than attending in person.*

Members of the public should note that they will not be allowed to speak during the formal meeting.

  
Mrs. L.M. Phillips

Town Clerk

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2023

## AGENDA

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

**(Chair: Cllr. Mrs. S. Crew, Vice Chair: Cllr. D. Hobson, Membership: All Cllrs.)**

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and note apologies where valid reasons for absence have been given to the Town Clerk at least one hour prior to the meeting.

#### 2. Chairman's Remarks

#### 3. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 – being any pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Members' Register of Interests and any written requests for dispensation received by the Proper Officer under section 22 of the Localism Act.

#### 4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the notes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. (Attached).

#### 5. Applications received by the Local Planning Authority

To consider and make observations on all planning applications received including those listed in the schedule (PA/Schedule 01-31-23). (Attached).

#### 6. Planning Correspondence

Committee to receive planning decisions, enforcement complaints, appeal decisions, temporary road closures etc., as advised by the District and County Council. (Attached).

#### 7. Proposed Work to Trees

Committee to consider the following proposed works to trees (details circulated by email 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023) and resolve as required:

- a) **Location:** Mount St. Mary, Bridge Street **Proposal:** T1 – Holme Oak – Reduce heavy overhang over public car park by approx. 4m as per photo supplied. T2 – Italian Cypress – Reduce by 2m to help alleviate pressure at the base, as per photo supplied. T3 – Sycamore (group) – Remove two specimens next to Beech to allow more lateral space and round the Beech tree and repollard the remaining group as per photo supplied.

#### 8. Next Meeting

Committee to note that the date of the next scheduled Planning Committee meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE****(Chair: Cllr. A. Leonard, Vice Chair: Cllr. L.M. Cooney, Membership: All Cllrs.)****1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive and note apologies where valid reasons for absence have been given to the Town Clerk at least one hour prior to the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations**

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act, 2011 – being any pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Members' Register of Interests and any written requests for dispensation received by the Proper Officer under section 22 of the Localism Act.

**3. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the notes of the Community Resources Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. (Attached).

**4. Charles Street Recreation Ground**

Committee to consider whether Louth Town Council has an appetite for taking ownership of the above (map attached) and resolve upon whether it would like to enter into discussions with ELDC regarding transfer of ownership.

**5. Annual Town Meeting**

Committee to consider changing the format of the above.

**6. Coronation of King Charles III**

Committee to consider how Louth Town Council might like to celebrate the above.

**7. Tribute to Keyworkers Plaque**

Following previous discussion Councillors to suggest locations for a plaque, alternative to St. James' Church.

**8. Cemetery Review**

Councillors to receive the ICCM's report (attached) and resolve upon the way forward.

**9. Closed Session Item**

Council to resolve to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the business to be discussed in the following items, information being of a third party, commercial and confidential nature.

**a) Cemetery****b) Sessions House Boiler****9. Next Meeting**

Committee to note that the next meeting of the Community Resources Committee is scheduled to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

01-10-23 PLAN MINS

**MINUTES OF THE LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH  
ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

**Present** Councillor S. Crew (SC) (in the chair).

**Councillors:** Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), J. Baskett (JB), M. Bellwood (MB), L.M. Cooney (LMC), H. Filer (HF), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), D. Hobson (DH), M. Lamb (ML), A. Leonard (AL), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), B. O'Brien (BO), J. Simmons (JS) and D.E. Wing (DEW).

**Councillors not present:** Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW), J. Garrett (JG), G.E. Horton (GEH) and K. Norman (KN).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips and six members of the public were also present.

**P81. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. JG, KN, GEH and Mrs. PFW.

**P82. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations**

The following declarations of interest were made:

- a. Cllr. JMS – agenda items 4, 5, 6 as a member of ELDC
- b. Cllr. AL – agenda items 4, 5, 6 as a member of ELDC and PA3 as a business owner in the town, PA8 as an acquaintance of the applicant and PA16 as a neighbour.
- c. Cllr. DJEH – agenda item 4 as a member of the ELDC Planning Committee.
- d. Cllr. DH – PA15 as an acquaintance of the applicant.

**P83. Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be approved as the Minutes.

**P84. Applications received by the Local Planning Authority**

The Committee considered all planning applications received, including those listed on the schedule (PA/Schedule 01-10-23) and **RESOLVED** as follows:

- a. N/105/02268/22 – to object as LTC does not feel that the access and traffic generated, all exiting onto Newmarket, an already overstretched thoroughfare, is acceptable.
- b. N/105/02401/22 – to object on the grounds of garden grabbing, access and highway safety and the amount of traffic that will be generated from the development, all exiting the development onto St. Mary's Lane. All an unacceptable impact in terms of highways safety and the capacity of the existing highway network.
- c. N/105/02408/22 – to object on the grounds of overintensification, overshadowing, overbearing, loss of light, loss of privacy, no heritage report, strong neighbour objection, design and appearance.
- d. N/105/02419/22, N/105/02420/22, N/105/02449/22 and N/105/02450/22 – to object based on responses to previous applications for this contentious site and would object on this occasion on the grounds of Access and Highway Safety, Traffic Generation, Adequate Parking and Servicing.
- e. Cllr. DH left the room while discussion on application N/105/02522/22 took place.  
N/105/02522/22 - As a rule, Louth Town Council rejects pvcU in the conservation area. This property is unique and the Council feels that other more appropriate alternatives should be explored in order to retain the properties originality.
- f. To support all other applications. (It was requested that it be noted that 2 Cllrs. voted against N/105/01863/22).

**P85. Planning Correspondence**

The Committee considered and noted the following planning correspondence:

**a. ELDC Planning Decisions**

- i. ELDC Approved – N/105/01984/22 – Planning Permission – 49 Ramsgate, LN11 0NG – LTC supported
- ii. ELDC Approved – N/105/01992/22 – Consent to Display an Advertisement – McDonald's Restaurant, Lincoln Way, LN11 0LS – LTC supported

- iii. ELDC Approved – N/105/01857/22 – Consent to Display an Advertisement – Plot 5, Lincoln Way – LTC supported
- iv. ELDC Approved – N/105/01961/22 – Planning Permission – McDonald's Restaurant, Lincoln Way, LN11 0LS – LTC supported
- v. ELDC Approved – N/105/01811/22 – Planning Permission – Automate, Ugate, LN11 9HD – LTC supported
- vi. ELDC Approved – N/105/02077/22 – Planning Permission – 7 Park Avenue, LN11 8BY – LTC supported
- vii. ELDC Approved – N/105/00688/17 – Outline Planning Permission – Land off Riverhead Road – LTC objected
- viii. ELDC Approved – N/105/01447/22 – Planning Permission – 61 Broadbank, LN11 0EW – LTC objected

**b. Temporary Traffic Restrictions**

- i. Organisation responsible for restriction: Lincolnshire County Council  
Reason for restriction: Reconstruction of Carriageway.  
Nature and location of restriction: Road closure Order - A631 (Between A157 & a point 200m Northwest) A157 (Between 200m West & 200m East of A631) 40mph speed limit Order - A631 (Between A157 & a point 400m Northwest) A157 (Between 400m West & 400m East of A631)  
Period of restriction: 14/11/2022 - 31/01/2023 Closures 19:00 to 06:30 only. 40mph Speed Limit 24/7.  
(Restrictions to be implemented as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)
- ii. Organisation responsible for restriction: Anglian Water  
Reason for restriction: Emergency - Burst Main repairs  
Nature and location of restriction: Emergency Road closure Order - High Holme Road  
Period of restriction: 21/12/2022 - 27/12/2022  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 5 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)
- iii. Organisation responsible for restriction: Anglian Water  
Reason for restriction: Tarmac defect replacement  
Nature and location of restriction:  
Road closure Order - Eastgate (Between Nichol Hill & Cannon Street)  
Period of restriction: 05/02/2023 - 05/02/2023  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 1 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)
- iv. Organisation responsible for restriction: RA Dalton Limited  
Reason for restriction: Sewer connection  
Nature and location of restriction: Road closure Order - Cordeaux Corner  
Period of restriction: 06/02/2023 - 10/02/2023 08:00 to 17:00  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 5 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)

**P86. Proposed Work to Trees**

The Committee considered the following proposed works to trees and **RESOLVED** to support both:

- a. **Location:** 54 Westgate **Proposal:** T1 – Holly – Reduce in height from 7m to 5.5m (below BT cable) and trim. T3 – Yew – Reduce from 7m to 6m and shape to clear neighbouring property by up to 1m and to within property boundary to clear footpath and public highway. T4 – Weeping Ash – Tree stands at around 5m and is declining from its upper crown, remove deadwood and reduce the remaining by up to 1m to give an aesthetic prune. T5 – Swedish Whitebeam – Tree stands at 10m and has lost a large limb to the rear; reduce the upper crown's width towards the neighbouring property by up to 2m to compensate for the lost limb. Broken stub from snapped limb will be reduced by half to remove weight, while avoiding a large diameter cut on the main stem. T6 – Holly – Reduce by up to 1m in height from 6m to 5m and up to 2m from width to reduce overhang to river. T7 – Hazel x 2 – Previously coppiced, remove thicker stems to thin generally, likely to equate to 50%, then reduce the remaining to 4m from 6m. T8 – Holly – Tree has previously lost a leading limb causing a secondary branch to grow in an unnatural direction; tree stands at 7m, reduce its height to 4m to rebalance it. T9 – Yew x 2 – Two trees standing at 6m, remove ivy and epicormic growth from the main stem then trim the crown by approximately 0.5m all around to round them for aesthetic reasons. T10 – Copper Beech – Reduce width of garden side of the tree from 6m to 3m. T11 – Dawn Redwood – Prune or remove branches as required to clear garage building by 1.5m, only side limbs will be removed, no reduction of the main stem will

be made.

- b. Location:** 1 Temple Terrace **Proposal:** T1, T2, T3 – Sycamore – Repollard to old stools, approx. 5m.

**P87. Appeals**

The Committee noted that:

- a.** The following refusals by ELDC of planning applications had resulted in appeals being lodged as below and that any representations made by Council in the planning stages had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
- b.** If the Council wished to make further comments, modify or withdraw its previous comments it should do so by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023:
  - i.** N/105/00613/22 – 1 Grosvenor Road, LN11 0BB – Erection of a detached bungalow and alterations to existing vehicular and pedestrian access. Existing garage to be demolished – LTC objected to this application on 10th May 2022 on the grounds that the proposals overcrowd such a small tight space and are overbearing, constituting overintensification and garden grabbing. The Council asks that the ELDC Ward Councillor, Chris Green, please call the application in.  
Councillors agreed that in future if an application required calling in a formal letter should be sent to the District Councillor responsible, requesting such and that they should be asked to copy the Town Council in on their correspondence.

Cllr. LMC left the meeting at 9.37pm.

- ii.** N/105/00411/22 – 31 Northgate, LN11 0LT – Change of use, conversion of and extensions and alterations to existing shop front and flat to form a single dwelling house. Demolition of existing rear extension, relating to 31 Northgate, LN11 0LT – LTC supported this application. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should make further representation to the Inspector to confirm that the Town Council supported the application and felt that the proposals were a good design and good use of a bathroom shop which has had the same display in its window for 30 years. LTC still support.

- P88.** It was noted that the date of the next scheduled Planning Committee meeting was 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

The Meeting Closed at 9.42pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Our Ref	Author-ity	Application No	Type	Applicant	Proposal	Location / Ward	Conservation Area?	Previous LTC Comments	Expiry Date for LTC Comments	Planning Schedule Date
1	ELDC	N/105/ 02507/22	Planning Permission	Mr. and Mrs. Mapletoft	Erection of 2no. houses.	Ashwater House, 19 Willow Drive, LN11 0AH, St. Margaret's Ward	No	New	01/02/2023	31/01/2023
2	ELDC	N/105/ 00086/23	Planning Permission	Mrs. C. Shipton	Conversion of, extension and alterations to an existing workshop to provide extended living accommodation to the dwelling at 57 Broadbank.	55 Broadbank, LN11 0EW, St. James' Ward	Yes	New	13/02/2023	31/01/2023
3	ELDC	N/105/ 00072/23	Planning Permission	Montebello Louth Ltd	Alterations to existing restaurant to provide an external flue.	37 Upgate, LN11 9HD, Priory Ward	Yes	New	13/02/2023	31/01/2023
4	ELDC	N/105/ 00068/23	Planning Permission	Mr. and Mrs. Strickland	Extensions to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation. Existing garage to be demolished.	80 Keddington Road, LN11 0BA, St. Margaret's Ward	No	New	14/02/2023	31/01/2023

## PLANNING COMMITTEE 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2023 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

### 1. ELDC Planning Decisions

- a. ELDC Approved – N/105/01778/22 – Planning Permission – 15-19 Gresley Road – LTC supported
- b. ELDC Refused – N/159/00281/21 – Planning Permission – Thorpe Hall, Lincoln Road, South Elkington, LN11 0QR – LTC objected.
- c. ELDC Approved – N/105/02346/22 – Consent to Display – HSBC, Cornmarket, LN11 9QB – LTC supported.
- d. ELDC Approved – N/105/02252/22 – Planning Permission – 45 Eastfield Road, LN11 7AJ – LTC supported.

### 2. Temporary Traffic Restrictions

- a. Organisation responsible for restriction: Anglian Water  
Reason for restriction: Emergency - Laying new water main  
Nature and location of restriction: Emergency Road closure Order - St Marys Lane (Southeastern sliproad from St Marys Lane onto Westgate only)  
Period of restriction: 06/01/2023 - 26/01/2023 09:00 to 15:00  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 21 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)
- b. Organisation responsible for restriction: Anglian Water  
Reason for restriction: Laying new water main  
Nature and location of restriction: Road closure Order - St Marys Lane (Southeastern sliproad from St Marys Lane onto Westgate only)  
Period of restriction: 27/01/2023 - 17/02/2023  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 22 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)
- c. Organisation responsible for restriction: Lincolnshire County Council  
Reason for restriction: Emergency - Retaining wall repairs/maintenance  
Nature and location of restriction:  
Emergency Road closure Order - B1520 Upgate (Between Quarryside & Meridan View)  
Period of restriction: 23/01/2023 - 27/01/2023  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 5 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)
- d. Organisation responsible for restriction: Anglian Water  
Reason for restriction: Emergency - Burst Main Repairs  
Nature and location of restriction: Emergency Road closure Order - Monks Dyke Road  
Period of restriction: 12/01/2023 - 18/01/2023  
(Restrictions to be implemented for 5 days as and when required during this period, signage detailing accurate dates and times will be displayed on site in advance)

11-01-22 CR MINS

**MINUTES OF THE LOUTH TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE OLD COURT ROOM, THE SESSIONS HOUSE, LOUTH  
ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**Present** Councillor A. Leonard (AL), (in the chair).

**Councillors:** Mrs. E. Ballard (EB), J Baskett (JB), M. Bellwood (MB), L. Cooney (LMC), S. Crew (SC), D.J.E. Hall (DJEH), D. Hobson (DH), Mrs. S.E. Locking (SEL), Mrs. J. Makinson-Sanders (JMS), K. Norman (KN) and B. O'Brien (BO).

**Councillors not present:** H. Filer (HF), D. Ford (DF), J. Garrett (JG), G.E. Horton (GEH), M. Lamb (ML), J. Simmons (JS). Mrs. P.F. Watson (PFW) and D.E. Wing (DEW).

The Town Clerk, Mrs. L.M. Phillips and the Town Clerk's Assistant Mrs. M.C. Vincent were also present.

**C20. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: HF, DF, JG, GEH, ML, JS, Mrs. PFW and DEW.

**C21. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations**

None.

**C22. Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the notes of the Community Resources Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022 be approved as the Minutes.

**C23. Tribute to Keyworkers**

**a.** It was noted that a bench and plaque have now been installed on the bank of the canal as previously agreed.  
**b.** The Town Clerk reported to the Council that the Rev'd Cameron Watt at St James' Church had advised her that a Faculty would be required for a plaque to be installed on the wall of the church and that there would be an admin charge of £300 for this; he did also advise that it was unlikely that the request would be looked on favourably, and that instead a plaque could be attached to a sandstone box, which could be exhibited near to the toilets (where the exhibition boards are). Cllr. AL suggested that a sandstone box would be in the region of £1000 and that the location was not very good, that perhaps we should instead consider something else given the barriers; perhaps Councillors could look around the town to see if there were any other preferable locations and that an agenda item could be included at the next CR meeting.

**C24. Solar Christmas Trees**

The Town Clerk reported that she had put in an application to LCC for 16 solar trees in eight locations, mounted onto lampposts. She had been informed by LCC that each lamppost would require an independent safety test (at LTC's expense) and so she had emailed Cllr. Parkin asking if she might intervene to request that the permission cost of £36 per lamppost be waived and that help be given regarding the structural tests. The Committee was of the general opinion that the lampposts should already be tested by LCC and therefore further tests should be surplus to requirement. The Town Clerk reported that the Louth Independent Traders were unable to fund the cost of all the solar Christmas Trees but would contribute £400 towards them. The Switch On (when the solar trees would need to be installed for), was on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The Town Clerk was hopeful that LCC would allow the solar trees to be installed without a further independent test on each lamppost and that if we were not able to order them soon, the company supplying them may have no stock available.

**C25. Closed Session Item**

It was **RESOLVED** to move into Closed Session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the business to be discussed in the following items, information being of a third party confidential nature. It was **RESOLVED** to approve that an application be made and signed to the Ministry of Justice for a licence to exhume cremated remains and reinter the same within London Road Cemetery following a request made to Louth Town Council, and further that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to deal with the matter.



**C26. Next Meeting**

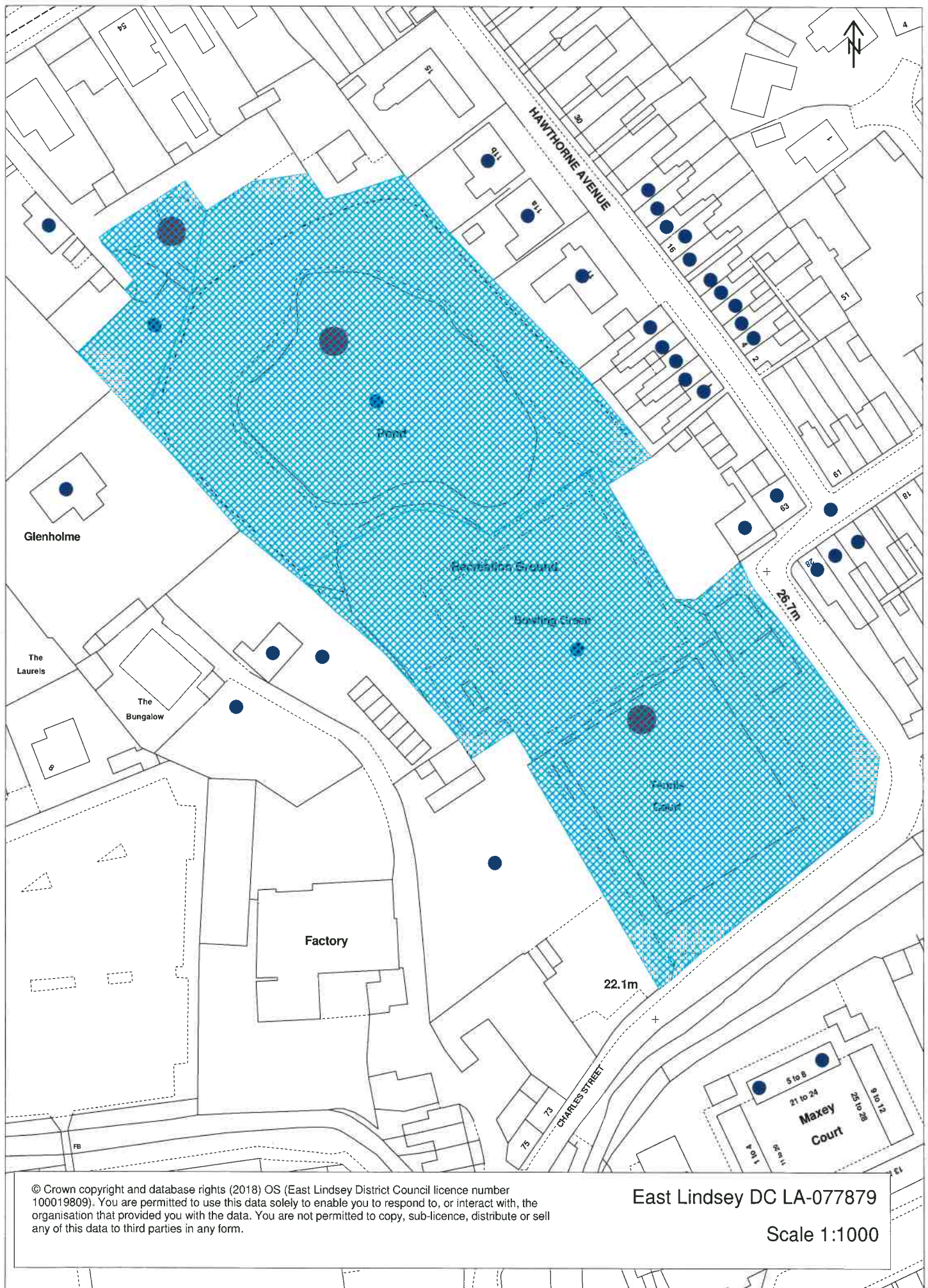
The Committee noted that the date of the next scheduled Community Resources Committee meeting was 31st January 2023.

The Meeting Closed at 8:30pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman)

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

UNAPPROVED



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East Lindsey DC LA-077879

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**Louth Town Council**  
**Operational Cemetery Services Review**  
**August 2022**

**Mathew Crawley MBA, PGDip, FCMI, FICCM(DipHons)**  
**ICCM Technical & Member Services Officer**



**The Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management**  
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## Preface

In 2021, Louth Town Council began to assess the long-term viability of their cemetery service following increasing awareness of the finite resources presented, and a perception of limited opportunities with regard to extending the operational 'life' of the cemetery in its current format.

In order to further understand the current landscape of the cemetery service, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) were commissioned to undertake a desktop study with regard to identifying any areas of the currently provided services which may be adding to challenges presented by the limited space available, and further investigate options for extending the ability to provide a burial service for its residents.

In addition, the ICCM were also asked to consider the suitability of the current fees and charges structure, and cemetery rules and regulations with comments welcomed for any potential improvements.



## Background and Scope of Current Review

Following the commissioning of the ICCM report in July 2022, it was agreed that a report would be beneficial to the service which would assist in understanding the options available to Louth Town Council in extending its ability to provide a burial service within its current and potential resources.

A site visit was therefore undertaken in August 2022 where the Town Clerk was in attendance to complete a tour of Louth Cemetery and subsequently make available those records which were either available (or pertinent) to the running and management of the cemetery.

The main purpose of the following report is to therefore understand:

- What opportunities are available to Louth Town Council to extend the life of the cemetery service with existing resources?
- Are there any opportunities to implement wholesale changes to how the cemetery service is provided, including the 'building up' of a cemetery on top of the current cemetery footprint?
- Is the current fees and charges schedule fit for purpose and reasonable when compared to neighbours/competitors?
- Are the current Louth Town Council Rules and Regulations conducive to the long term (and immediate) management of the cemetery; and are there any areas for improvement which may be directly linked to the longevity of the current cemetery provision?

As an industry body in existence since 1913, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), provides education, training, policy and best practice guidance to burial and cremation authorities throughout the United Kingdom.

The ICCM's commissioning to undertake the present review should provide the reader with a strong level of confidence due to its highly regarded standing within the profession, and its impartiality as a not-for-profit member organisation of which Louth Town Council hold such a current membership.

The present report will therefore address each key point as raised above, with an emphasis on service delivery and the suitability of care provided for bereaved persons at the centre of such analysis. All findings disclosed have been either drawn from referenced articles, statistics, verbal communication with Louth Town Council staff, or further information held in the public domain as appropriate, or from direct observations during the ICCM Officer's in person site visit.

In order to begin to do as such, it is important to understand the current overview of the cemetery service provided by Louth Town Council.

### Current Demand on Burial Space

The underpinning reasoning for the current cemetery service review is borne from a growing awareness that the burial function within Louth Town Council is increasingly becoming a finite resource.

A report compiled by Louth Town Council in 2021 investigated the current and future requirements of the cemetery service if recent trends are to be observed going forward.

### Valuation Office Agency Information

Taking into account the 'full' and 'ashes' burial figures over the previous 10-year period (as presented in the following section), grave space footprints are based on either a 4'6" x 8'75" size or '4 x 10' although it is expected that the latter is the current preferred option even though the square footage provides the same result.

With such sizes transferred to the wider site requirements, it has been calculated (and ratified) that for each 5-year period, this would equate to 0.186 acres needed to accommodate burials at the current average rate.

It is further disclosed, that as of March 2021, Louth Town Council declares that of the 18.19-acre site, currently, 17 acres is currently used. This leaves a discrepancy of 1.19 acres which may be due to existing buildings, hard-standings and permanent infrastructure, in addition to unused areas and those not suitable for burial.

That which isn't disclosed however, is the amount of individual grave spaces which are currently remaining which either:

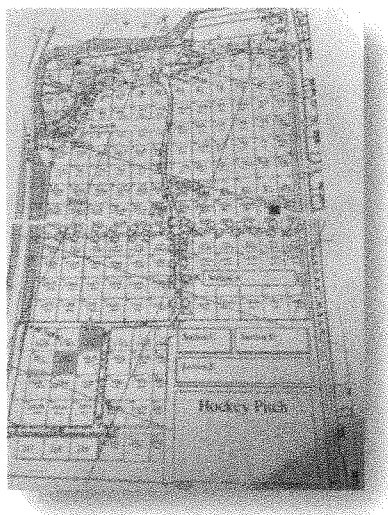
- Haven't been sold
- Can be added to existing sections and/or rows
- Have been sold as 'reserved' graves but which haven't been used for their entire lease term and as such come back to the Council's ownership
- Are public graves with remaining space identified within them which would be suitable for purchase
- Are public graves situated on Consecrated land which could provide a potential for re-use with permission from the local Diocese.

There has been a separate report compiled entitled '*5.Audit of Burial Spaces – The Next 15 Years*', which as the title suggests, surmises that there are current areas available for burial within the existing site based on similar figures provided in the next section.

The areas for consideration can be seen in the table below:

Section	Approx # of Graves	Remedial Action
A	22	Previously delineated path
B	11	Removal of asphalt path
C	50	To be cleared of vegetation and levelled

Section	Approx # of Graves	Remedial Action
<b>D</b>	70	Established orchard siting 32 trees and shrubs (community asset)
<b>E</b>	144	Steep sloping wasteland requiring clearing and levelling



With rough calculations, it is unclear to ascertain how the service would be able to operate for a further 15 years with all available graves being realised from the table above.

The total of 297 graves would account to 19 full grave spaces a year which would still be well under that required annually prior to ashes graves being found additionally.

There are also considerations to be made regarding some of the remedial action so described above, particularly with regard to the suitability of those actions in sections D and E.

### Burial Statistics and Projections

To further understand the requirements of the service, Louth Town Council provided details of all burials for the preceding 10-year financial periods which are displayed in the table below:

Financial Year	Ashes Burial	Full Burial	Total Burials
<b>11/12</b>	20	39	59
<b>12/13</b>	20	37	57
<b>13/14</b>	22	35	57
<b>14/15</b>	20	37	57
<b>15/16</b>	26	39	65
<b>16/17</b>	26	40	66
<b>17/18</b>	29	31	60
<b>18/19</b>	26	26	52
<b>19/20</b>	16	30	46
<b>20/21</b>	25	35	60
<b>Average</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>58</b>

The table is able to provide clear and consistent data which shows that (when compared with statistical data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS)) whilst the population of



Louth has risen by c.1,218 people over the same period, burial statistics are mainly constant with no marginal rises or significant falls in graves required for burial in direct comparison.

Further ONS data also offers that the population is mainly in the 50-69 age bracket, and that residents are predominantly white (98%), and either of Christian (64%) or no faith (27%).

Of the burials disclosed above, it is noted that 84% are residents, whilst a further 16% are non-residents; and that of those, 60% are full burials on average. What the data doesn't consider fully, is how many of the burials above required a new grave (i.e., unused at the point of interment), and how many are burials within an existing grave (i.e., 're-opened' graves). It is understood that this may be negligible with regard to full burials, but undetermined for those burials relating to ashes.

Access to such information will provide a clearer picture of the immediate and long term needs of the site, whilst also potentially affecting the current data quite significantly.

### Current Cemetery Provisions

As has been disclosed in previous sections, Louth Town Council currently operate one 'operational' cemetery site. The said site has been in operations since 1855, and to date has accommodated over 29,000 burials within its 18.19-acre footprint.

Both full and ashes burials can be found within both public and privately owned graves (where the exclusive right of burial has been issued), and the site is split between consecrated and unconsecrated sections at a rate of 70/30%.

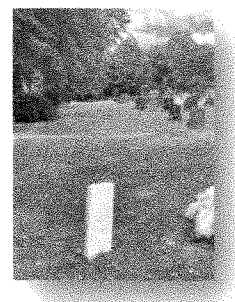
Additionally, there is a small section currently set aside for the use of the Greek Orthodox community, which currently make up 3% of the overall Louth demographic.



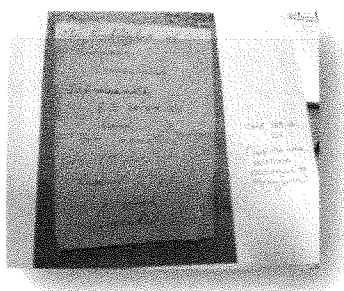
### Current Cemetery Characteristics

Louth cemetery is a self-described 'meadowland' burial site and is therefore maintained as such with several areas permitted to be mowed less frequently to add to the desired aesthetic of the site.

Due to its meadowland status, there are mainly 'traditional' types of memorials throughout the site with kerb sets and oversized memorials at a minimum. Due to the length of time that the cemetery has been in operation, there are many memorials of historic importance and areas where graves will have been sold in perpetuity (historically), upon which memorials are still present.



### Consecration



As per Louth Town Council records, the Authority took the decision to consecrate c.70% of the overall cemetery with regard to its burial space.

Whilst the Authority are able to do this in line with the provisions of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977, this does impose certain restrictions for the wider management of any sections coming under the consecration order.

This therefore means that the removal of memorials, creation of additional cemetery space on top of that which is already there and the offering of particular types of memorial within these sections must be first given allowance by the Bishop of the Diocese by way of a faculty being issued (in each instance or by a 'blanket' approach) to the Council, however, these are not always granted and are rather assessed on a case by case basis, also taking into account ecclesiastical considerations pertinent to the Church of England.

### Features

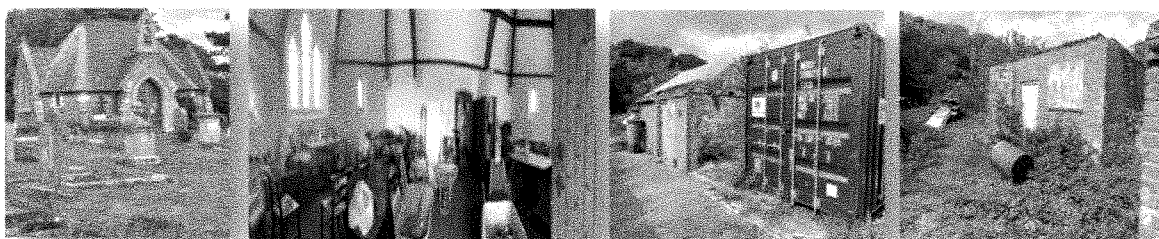
In addition to the other headings in this section (and referenced elsewhere), there are two other features of note when considering the overall cemetery space as a community resource.

Whilst the provision of a community orchard has been discussed, there are also two pertinent areas where established planting has been witnessed around 2/3 into the cemetery site.



As the picture on the right shows, these areas have large shrubberies located within, and from discussions with Louth Town Council staff, have previously been buried in, and levelled and cleared of all memorials within their immediate vicinity.

### Buildings



Louth cemetery is currently the home of an additional 4 buildings within its current footprint. This includes two operational chapels as shown above, with one being currently rented by the Greek Orthodox Community, and the other, whilst a fully working and hireable asset, is used for small burial services approximately twice a year, with it being the rest room for grave digging staff at all other times.

In addition, there are two out-buildings, one of which has been historically fire damaged immediately next to a shipping container which houses grounds maintenance equipment. These buildings haven't been utilised in recent memory and with one having an asbestos roof, they have been mothballed for the foreseeable future.

## Potential Cemetery Provisions

Whilst the previous sections provide an overview of that which is currently available or contained within Louth Cemetery, the following section presents current options available to the Town Council should they wish to continue to provide an operational cemetery service (rather than closed) in the longer term.

### Creation of 'Second Tier' Cemetery

Louth Town Council Officers, through on site and further discussions, are aware of the potential to follow in what several other burial sites have done nationally in the past, and create further burial space within an existing site by effectively adding another 4'6" of soil on top of the cemetery site already there to effectively create a 'second tier', or new cemetery.

Specifically, an area between 'compartments' 61 and 84 was originally highlighted and considered for this purpose by cemetery staff.

Whilst this could still present an option for the Council, the cost involved in doing so, potential negative press and viability of such a project may be questionable. This is further cemented when considering:

- Half of the land earmarked for such a purpose is currently consecrated and would therefore require permission from the Diocese to do so.
- There are historic graves in place currently where exclusive rights of burial either still exist or may wish to be extended by families whose lease is coming to an end.
- There are memorials attached to such exclusive rights and placed upon those relevant graves which may not be able to be removed.

These above points may provide justifiable avoidance of embarking on this method of extending the cemetery's 'life'.

### Use of Existing Land



There are a relatively low number of grave spaces required on an annual basis by the Council, and as previously mentioned, this figure may be further reduced when graves which have been reopened are accounted for in the same figures.

There may, therefore, be the opportunity to utilise existing land within the cemetery as currently noted, where such remedial works may be cost effective and with limited disruption to existing cemetery users and burials already undertaken.

Such works include, but are not limited to:

- The removal of previously delineated asphalt paths on sections A and B as referenced.
- Area C to be tidied, cleared of excess soil, and levelled.

- The removal of extremely large shrubs where burials have historically already taken place in the areas and headstones removed historically. Remaining space within unpurchased graves in this area might then be utilised where possible (and under strict conditions).
- The demolishing of fire damaged buildings at the top end of the site and utilising space for burial.
- The potential removal of the community orchard, with it being relocated to the now level area which previously housed the fire damaged buildings.
- The extension of existing rows in established sections which pose no issue to their immediate surrounding.

It is observed that there is an abundance of cemetery space that would be suitable for new or additional burials as outlined above, and concurs in the main with previous discussion had within the Louth Town Council cemetery team.

### **Reclaiming Unused Graves**

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 is a useful tool for cemetery management and offers statutory provisions which are pertinent to Louth Town Council.

In particular, Article 10(3), states that where grave rights have been issued, yet no burial has ever taken place within a period of 75 years, that:

*'The burial authority may serve notice on the owner of the right of its liability to determination under this paragraph, and the right shall determine by virtue of the notice unless, within 6 months of the date of service, the owner of the right notifies the authority in writing of his intention to retain it'.*

Therefore, although graves are currently sold on a 60 year lease, those that have been purchased historically for longer and not used after 75 years, the Council is able to work through a process giving the grave owner every opportunity to extend their lease should they wish (following a prescribed set of criteria further within the Order), and if not, reclaim the grave space to the ownership of the Council, and subsequently re-sell.

It is currently unclear how many graves may be affected by such a process due to incomplete cemetery records.

### **Resale of Expired Grave Spaces**

Adding to the previous sub-heading, where graves have been sold for a finite period (i.e., not in perpetuity which should be honoured), then wherever a grave space's rights have come to a natural end, the rights then immediately revert back to the Council.

If the provisions as above are extended to these types of graves, every opportunity could be given to the current/recent grave owner/s to extend or re-lease the grave space, but in instances where there has been contact made within a reasonable period determined by

the Council by the grave owner, then the remaining space within these types of graves could again be sold on as a 'new' purchase.

The Council could also instil caveats for such graves which include the insistence that no memorial is replaced upon such affected graves and that existing memorials are honoured and added to for any additional inscriptions, rather than their complete removal; both on a heritage basis and that to harness confidence with Louth residents that the Council is acting in a socially responsible way.

### **Re-use of Graves**

In the main, true grave re-use is currently limited to London Authorities who are covered by their own statutory Act (London County Council (General Powers) Act 1935), which allows such authorities to extinguish the rights of current deed holders outside of the scope of that described in the immediately preceding section, and subsequently (after a rigorous process is followed) remove buried remains from grave spaces and either re-bury at a greater depth, or move to a new grave at the end of an existing row, in order to provide further burial space within existing grave plots.

As this practice isn't permissible outside of those specific London Councils (and other private sites where their own individual Act has been sought), choices for the same are limited elsewhere.

One option that is available to the Council, is that of introducing grave re-use as described above, in graves that are public/unpurchased, and are situated within consecrated sections.

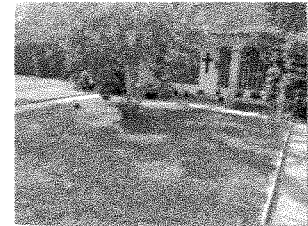
The Church of England has thus far taken a progressive view on the idea of grave re-use, and may therefore issue a blanket faculty for a number of adjoining public graves where re-use is intended to extend the cemetery's operational life.

This would undoubtedly go hand in hand with full public consultation and assurance, however it may be a viable option to Louth Council if there is both the appetite to do it, there are a number of graves where this is possible/viable, and also that the residents are comfortable with such a practice as has been evident in other sites throughout the country.

Separately, public graves can again be re-used in a less traditional sense, whereby the grave itself isn't disturbed, rather that the rights to any existing space above those already interred is sold as a now private grave plot.

## Ashes Disposal Methods

As has been previously alluded to, ashes dispersals account for around 40% of all burials undertaken within Louth cemetery, however the placement of these has been observed as prescriptive with only below ground burials being permitted to date, whether that be in an ashes grave designated for that purpose, or burial within the garden of remembrance.



Scatterings are prohibited, and the existing garden of remembrance therefore proves obsolete. In addition, ashes buried within a 'full' grave are buried in such a manner that a grave becomes unusable should they be buried prior to a further expected coffin burial.

Previous sections and further sections regarding memorialisation provide an alternative view to the current practices, including the potential to avoid unnecessary burials of ashes by providing a further garden of remembrance which may extend the ability to provide further burial space as a consequence.

## Acquisition of New Land

Louth Town Council Officers advise that there is further potential to acquire land directly adjoining the existing cemetery. It is currently unclear how much extra space that this would generate for cemetery provision, however it may well prove a viable option.

Topographic testing would be required prior to any development or purchase of the land to ascertain its suitability as an additional cemetery. This would also coincide with following Environment Agency regulations by commissioning a Tier 1 (potentially leading to Tier 2) risk assessment to establish the presence of the existing water table and further understand if the resultant pollution caused to groundwater, would be permissible against said regulations.

## Memorialisation & Burial Alternatives

The current report thus far has considered the 'traditional' methods of disposal as below ground burial, whether that be for ashes or full burials.

It is noted that there are currently no memorial options available for persons who have had burials within the site which fall outside of the scope of a standard headstone memorial, which will be sited upon the owned grave space where the burial has taken place.

One exception is the provision of a memorial wall which is near capacity for inscribed bricks as is evident in the previous section, 'Ashes Disposal Methods'.

This is further witness across the immediate locale to Louth Town Council where findings have shown that services offerings at neighbouring sites with specific regard to the types of memorials that were being sold are either not offered at all, or extremely limited in their provision.

There may, therefore, be opportunities for Louth Town Council to investigate the potential, in full consultation with residents, as to the suitability in providing alternative ashes dispersal methods, which include leased memorials, in order to ease the pressure of losing large amounts of grave spaces to said burials, whilst also providing alternatives to the bereaved, alongside generating additional revenue for the longer-term management of the site.

Such a scope could include a new, landscaped garden of remembrance, and to either reinstate or extend the existing memorial wall at the top end of the site. Alternatively, columbaria or sanctums such as those provided in the images below could be a welcome alternative at a much lower cost to residents, whereby they may inter their ashes above ground and utilise space that could otherwise be deemed unsuitable for burial, but would



undoubtedly require less space to install than providing traditional, below ground burial options.

As previously mentioned, such an undertaking should be made with/under the full consultation of Louth residents to establish whether such an introduction would be well received and understand how viable such an initiative would be.



## Fees and Charges

The following section is intended to provide greater transparency with regard to the current fees and charges structure adopted by Louth Town Council's cemetery services, and ascertain how fees and charges for regular, or routine, services compare to those of their closest neighbours providing a truly comparable service.

Location	ERoB (Full)	ERoB (Ashes)	Non-Resident Surcharge	Burial (Full)	Burial (Ashes)	Transfer of ERoB	Chapel Hire	Memorial Permit
<b>Alford Town Council</b>	£175	£100	X 2	£250	£125	£20	N/A	£125
<b>Louth Town Council</b>	<b>£322</b>	<b>£146</b>	<b>X 2</b>	<b>£458</b>	<b>£107</b>	<b>£45</b>	<b>£107</b>	<b>£158</b>
<b>Sleaford Town Council</b>	£390	£150	X 2	£438	£144	N/A	N/A	£120
<b>Skegness Town Council</b>	£550	£220	X 3 (X 3.6 Ashes)	£110	£110	£550 (Less Original Fees)	N/A	£265
<b>Waltham Parish Council</b>	£500	£300	X 2.5	£500	£260	£25 (Per Hour)	N/A	£80
<b>Woodhall Spa Parish Council</b>	£250	£250	X 3.2	£250	£125	N/A	N/A	N/A

The table above, offers figures (where disclosed) which account for several 'regular' cemetery fees and charges that are regularly found through the day-to-day administration of a cemetery office.

The figures quoted throughout are correct at the present time of writing (28<sup>th</sup> September 2022) and incorporate the five closest Parish and Town Councils to Louth Town Council, who provide a burial function. To extend this comparison to neighbouring District, Borough or Metropolitan Borough Councils would give an incomplete view of those comparable services due to their historically higher fees across all services.

Instead, the figures in the table above features the Exclusive Right of Burial (ERoB) costs of the most similar 'lawn' type, and ashes graves which share the same characteristics in terms of number of burial spaces available within each.

It can therefore be seen that in terms of grave purchases and interment fees, with the exception of 'full' or 'coffined' interments, Louth Town Council's fees are below that of the average across the catchment area provided, and also towards the lower end of fees charged generally.

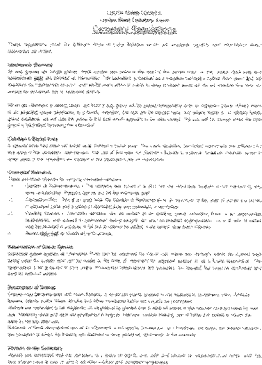
'Full' burial interment fees are those which are the closest to comparable sites and are the second highest of all figures presented. It should be noted however, that where the total cost of purchase and interment fees are treated as one fee and then compared across all sites, Louth still performs well and can be seen as the cheapest of the three higher collective fees.

The figures available which compare administrative fees with regard to the transfer of burial rights, and those for a memorial permit application, are observed to be at the higher end of the scale, however they also present no alarming disparity, particularly where the exclusive rights transfer fee is concerned, as both Skegness Town and Waltham Parish Councils may present a much higher fee in practice due to the structure of their own fees being comparable to a 'price on application' style of charge.

Louth can be seen as the only Council locally who are able to charge for the use of their burial chapel, and further Louth is one of the three cheaper services in relation to the fees chargeable for 'non-resident' burials and purchases, that being double the discounted, resident rate,

For clarity, the ability to apply a non-resident surcharge for those purchasing grave spaces or being buried within them in order to provide a benefit to residents, remains lawful under the Provision of Services Regulations as interpreted by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

## Rules and Regulations Observations



Louth Town Council currently has a brief set of cemetery rules and regulations which are accessible to all cemetery users and visitors both in print and online versions.

It remains unclear when the last time the regulations themselves were reviewed, however in their current format they include 12 sub-headings and are resultant in a two-page guide to the cemetery as a whole.

The current document has been fact checked against the information included therein, and there are several points of note which should be of use when re-addressing the rules and regulations at the next review period, in addition to

their importance in the greater scope of works being reviewed at present. The most important of which have been included under four main headings as follow:

### Cremated Remains

**Regulation:** *'There are three choices for burying cremated remains:*

- i) *Garden of Remembrance - The remains are buried in a plot, but the individual location is not marked by any form of memorial. Plaques can be put on the memorial wall;*
- ii) *Cremation Plot - This is an area near the Garden of Remembrance. A maximum of two sets of ashes are buried in allocated plots and a tablet of standard size and materials is permitted;*
- iii) *Existing Graves - Cremated remains can be buried in an existing grave providing there is an appropriate relationship, and subject to permission being sought can also be marked appropriately. Up to 4 sets of ashes may be allowed in a grave. A full burial cannot be added once ashes have been interred.*
- iv) *Ashes may not be scattered onto graves'.*

**Comments:** Whilst undoubtedly beneficial for the Louth cemetery service users to have choices with regard to the dispersal of their cremated remains, there are questions arising from the management of the said options.

In the Garden of Remembrance, it isn't recommended that ashes are buried within such a communal area intended for multiple placements of ashes, rather that they are scattered above the turf. It is understood that in recent years, ash placements have been stopped in this area, unless proof is given that the intended ashes are to be re-united with someone already laid to rest there, and based on the relationship between those two persons. Continuation of such a practice is effectively multiple burials in a large public grave (as the ashes are buried and the area is unpurchased with regard to grave rights), however the placement on top of the grass is not permitted under the fourth regulation in the same section. Further, should such burials within this area be designated by specific plot and

number (i.e., the burials are taking place within plots which involve specific rights), then point i) could be made clearer to reflect the exact administration involved.

Further, ashes burials are only permitted within graves where an 'appropriate relationship' can be ascertained. It is strongly suggested that this is not the Council's decision to make, rather that should the grave rights be sold and current on any grave space, it is then for the grave owner/s to decide who they wish to be buried within any grave space as is their right having granted them the ownership of the grave. It is unclear how many burials that are legally sound have been prevented from taking place due to this regulation being upheld, and ultimately enforcing the purchase of an alternative burial space unnecessarily.

Regulation three continues to suggest that once ashes are buried, there won't be full burials (i.e., in a coffin) permitted thereafter. It is unclear why this may be, but there could be good reason with regard to making sure that ashes previously buried aren't disturbed. This could again be avoided however, with appropriate advice being given to grave owners (or burial applicants in the case of a grave owner being buried), whereby graves are excavated to their full available depth to bury ashes, if it is wished or expected that a further coffin burial is required at a later date (where this appropriate space). This again, may result in graves being utilised more efficiently and to the family's wishes more appropriately.

Finally, ashes may not currently be scattered onto graves, or onto any grassed areas, as per the fourth regulation in this section. It has been indicated that this is more of a local, Council decision to not have any ashes visible rather than that of a maintenance or practical concern. On that basis, it can also be seen to potentially disadvantage those residents who wish to prolong the 'life' of a grave space's practical use as given the mixture of regulations, they may not scatter ashes above the turf, and may inadvertently 'close' their grave to further burials by having them interred. This could alternatively be managed in a much more conducive way to the requirements of both the Council and the grave owners themselves with alterations to the existing regulations.

### **Reservation of Grave Spaces**

**Regulation:** *'Individual grave spaces or Cremation Plots can be reserved for future use; these are normally within the current area being used for burials and can be made at the time of interment for adjacent spaces or as a future reservation. The reservation is for a period of sixty years. Provisional reservations are accepted "on request" but must be confirmed and paid for within 4 weeks'.*

**Comments:** The above regulation is unclear. In this current format, a 'reservation' and a 'purchase' are one and the same, and both issued for a period of 60 years. It would be useful to ascertain an assuredness that graves which begin as 'reserved' are in fact 'purchased pre-need', and that the lease of 60 years counts down from that point of reservation/purchase, rather than double fees being charged, or inconclusive lease terms being in operation.

It is also discretionary how many graves may be reserved ahead of time, and why only adjacent graves may be reserved for persons currently being interred.

Where graves have been reserved for a period of 4 weeks prior to payment being required, it would again be useful to complete a wider audit of:

- How many graves are currently marked as reserved but have had no fees paid to date?
- How many graves are currently being buried in at the point of need with the 4-week grace period also being employed, and further how many of said burials which are affected in this way, result in the full fees ever being paid?

The management of grave purchases as suggested in the questions immediately above may highlight a number of graves that are able to be 'reclaimed' by the Council as they have never been sold, and further, if the answers to the latter questions provide an obvious concern in terms of graves being used, yet the associated fees being unpaid, then an adjustment to this process would also become immediately necessary.

## Memorials

**Regulation:** *'No memorials of any sort are permitted without permission of the Town Council; applications can be made via local Monumental Masons or directly to the Town Clerk. All memorial fixings must comply with the minimum requirements of the National Association of Monumental Masons and must contain information relating to the compartment and grave space occupied. In the main burial section headstones incorporating a vase, or a single memorial vase, are allowed as are in some circumstances joint memorials / bases for adjacent graves again the designs requiring approval before proceeding. Other moveable items will usually be prohibited. Plants, bulbs, trees, shrubs, kerbings and other decorative features on graves are not allowed under the Local Authorities Cemetery Order (LACO 1977) this is to ensure the Health and Safety of the general public, for maintenance / landscaping and to allow safe access to adjacent grave spaces owners, in the short term and protect memorial foundations longer term'.*

**Comments:** There is a mention with regard to NAMM standards within the regulation, however no reference to the British Standard required for all memorials which are placed within your cemetery (BS:8415:18), and the necessity for all masons who undertake work within Louth Cemetery to be registered with NAMM, The British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) or both. This would assist to ensure the longer and immediate term safety of memorials installed within the cemetery and offer you a path for recourse should any mason act in a way which contravenes Louth Town Council's rules and regulations.

Prohibited items are also deemed so by Louth Town Council and not the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 as currently described. The 1977 Act doesn't make reference to this matter of cemetery management, rather that it places the onus on the Local Authority to decide what it feels is and isn't appropriate and on what basis.

Overall Comments	
Point	Comment
1	There is currently no footnote to mention that Louth Town Council can alter and/or amend any regulations as necessary, which would enable the cemetery

	services to act swiftly on any issues that require immediate attention or resolution.
<b>2</b>	Although an easy to use and read document, it is (in parts) hard to ascertain which items within the document are information and which are enforceable rules and regulations. Should the Council ever need to refer to them in order to see through such an enforcement (i.e., removal of unauthorised memorabilia), would this document provide a point of reference for the Council to stand by?
<b>3</b>	Additional points for stakeholders would be welcomed, for example, limitations on access to sites for contractors, how to arrange a funeral without a funeral director, how shallow graves may be dealt with and reference to the Children's Funeral Fund would all be useful points.
<b>4</b>	Some user-friendly details with regard to the cemetery service itself would be welcomed for those using the site that may not be residents. The cemetery address, contact details for an identifiable member of staff, seasonal cemetery opening times and links to other useful documents could all be welcome additions.

## Conclusions

From the forementioned cemetery site visit, consultations with Louth Town Council staff, and the review of current information provided by the local authority, it is clear to see that whilst the cemetery service is providing a suitable and conscientious service thus far, there are also areas for improvement available which may safeguard the availability of burial services for Louth residents should these be acted upon.

The investment in the ICCM's cemetery service review demonstrates a commitment that Louth Town Council wish to continue to provide a long-term cemetery provision on behalf of the Council, and the conclusions herewith aim to answer those questions originally posed in order to understand how these goals may align.

- 1. *What opportunities are available to Louth Town Council to extend the life of the cemetery service with existing resources?, and***
- 2. *Are there any opportunities to implement wholesale changes to how the cemetery service is provided, including the 'building up' of a cemetery on top of the current cemetery footprint?***

Encouragingly, there are many options available to the service in its current and longer-term formats.

As has been disclosed during the formation of the preceding report, due to operational restrictions, it would be inadvisable to suggest that the existing cemetery be 'built-up' to create a second layer cemetery with which to bury within,

That being the case, there are however alternatives with the support of a full, in-depth investigation into the make up of the graves currently situated on site. Once this is complete, the Town Council will be given further opportunity to explore how many graves may be reclaimed, how many may already be out of lease and therefore already owned by the Council for use, how many public graves may offer opportunities for private ownership with their remaining spaces within and further, if there are any graves which are public and on consecrated ground which may offer re-use options.

Additionally, there is the option to create space by removing existing hard standings, disused/damaged buildings and the potential to relocate the community orchard. This is not withstanding hundreds of additional graves that may be created by extending existing rows or by removing shrubberies.

There are further considerations to be given to how ashes are disposed of in terms of burial and prohibited scatterings which may extend burial space, and all of the above options are presented against a backdrop of additional, adjoining land that with further investigation, may be viable to create a new cemetery space.

The outlook is therefore one of positivity where there are many options that the Council may or may not wish to consider based on local opinion or further environmental factors

specific to its residents, however there is a suite of options through which the Council could attribute resource to investigate individually.

**3. *Is the current fees and charges schedule fit for purpose and reasonable when compared to neighbours/competitors?***

It is felt that the current fees and charges structure is fair when compared nationally and against that of its neighbouring sites.

Across the board for the 'usual' services provided, Louth Town Council presents itself amongst the middle range of those fees disclosed to the ICCM. Whilst there may be a temptation to increase the fees in line with those at the more expensive end of the spectrum, it may instead be seen as an opportunity to continue its socially responsible approach in not adding to the funeral poverty and cost of living crises observed on a national level.

**4. *Are the current Louth Town Council Rules and Regulations conducive to the long term (and immediate) management of the cemetery; and are there any areas for improvement which may be directly linked to the longevity of the current cemetery provision?***

As highlighted in the section for such purpose, there are several areas which have been identified for improvement including, but not limited to:

- Graves potentially being sold for one burial
- Limited choices and prohibitive management of the dispersal of ashes
- Unclear guidance on the management of grave leases, and
- Improvements required for the registration of those installing memorials within Louth Cemetery

This is not to say that the regulations are not useful, rather that several improvements as highlighted above, may provide a more aligned set of regulations which help to achieve the longer-term goals (and provision) of the cemetery service.

Such suggestions for resultant recommendations can be seen in the following section.



## Recommendations

The following table highlights the full recommendations provided following the preceding cemetery service review at Louth Town Council.

Recommendation #	Recommendation / Additional Comments
<b>1</b>	Conduct a full, rigorous audit of current burial figures. Such an audit should include the number of graves used per year as both 'new' and 're-open' burials. Whilst it is understood that this is a small number for coffined burials, it remains undetermined for ashes burials in full or ashes grave spaces. This is in order to fully understand true burial requirements annually.
<b>2</b>	Conduct a full, rigorous audit of current grave types, with particular emphasis on the number of graves where rights have expired, pre purchased graves that haven't been used and public graves that offer further purchasable burial space, and also those sited within consecrated land which may be utilised for true re-use.
<b>3</b>	Given the figures from the two recommendations above, ascertain the actual service demands and compile projections for the next 10-15 years, whilst also investigating which methods of grave extensions (or graves with alternative management) are the best fit for Louth residents.
<b>4</b>	Complete a further and final audit of the amount of grave spaces that may be discovered by adding additional graves to the end of existing rows or utilising areas where the removal of existing shrubberies can provide larger scale alternatives.
<b>5</b>	Make enquiries as to the likelihood of acceptance with regard to relocating the community orchard to a more suitable area within the cemetery which cannot otherwise be used for grave space, with a view to ultimately using the resultant land for new burial services.
<b>6</b>	Investigate the suitability of the adjacent land to the West of Louth Cemetery for expansion, although not recommended, companies such as Cemetery Development Services ( <a href="#">Cemetery Development and Environmental Solutions   The CDS Group</a> ) or Harrisons DD ( <a href="#">Home – Harrison Design Development Landscape Planning North Wales (harrisondd.co.uk)</a> ) may be able to assist with the relevant topographical and Tiered risk assessments required.
<b>7</b>	Investigate the potential in upgrading the current chapel facilities throughout Louth Cemetery. Shared residency in the current Orthodox chapel could be an option with the other chapel remaining as a storeroom for staff, or a full refurb of both chapels for burial services could be offered, in addition to making a community resource offering Grief Cafes or talks

	for the wider community. Other revenue possibilities may come from film screenings or weddings as appropriate, as per the needs of the community.
<b>8</b>	Look to completely decommission the two outbuildings at the top of the cemetery site. Further consultation would be needed to assess the long term use of the space provided, however the buildings in their current form are only liable to fall into further disrepair and provide a further hazard within the cemetery site.
<b>9</b>	Consider the establishment of a further, permanent Garden of Remembrance in order to permit the placement of ashes upon the turf and manage this as a true scattering garden rather than a further, finite burial space.
<b>10</b>	Complete a large-scale consultation process with residents in which to showcase possible opportunities for future memorialisation and ashes dispersal/burial options to determine need/or appetite within the immediate local area.
<b>11</b>	Update current memorial applications by insisting that all memorials are fitted by NAMM and/or BRAMM accredited masons and fitted to the current British Standard. Such changes should be reflected in all associated documentation.
<b>12</b>	Confirm that a 'signing-in' system for memorial masons to adhere to when working across within Louth Cemetery, only during regular, operational hours.
<b>13</b>	Revisit the current rules and regulations in a collaborative way inviting stakeholders to contribute to their formation. Establish the difference between the relevant rules and regulation and guidance as appropriate for clarity. Particular emphasis should be placed on the sections highlighted in the preceding 'rules and regulations' section.

## Bibliography

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