

Open Spaces Strategy – Appendix 2: Implementation Plan

Cemeteries and Churchyards (refer to 2.8 of the Open Spaces Strategy)

No.	Policy	What we have done...	Next Steps	Lead Person/s	Time frame
a)	Cemeteries and Churchyards to be managed closer to natural green spaces for example, reduced mowing, where this does not impact negatively on the client/visitor experience and sensitive locations.	Discussed with Cityparks manager the approach to changing and implementing this change. Met with Bereavement Services (BS) on two occasions to explore the impact and opportunities of any changes on their services. Met with the Wildlife forum who advised that it may take two to three years for the wildlife plant vegetation to stabilise and grow through and that we should only cut once a year and remove cuttings. Consider sites where removal of cuttings would be especially beneficial as there will be cost implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prepare information regarding changes in mowing to inform ward councillors, the general public of positive benefits of change. Consult with Bereavement Services and general public before implementing changes. ii. Identify suitable sites with BS to cut and clear or leave. iii. Implementation of a reduced cutting regime which will include monitoring vegetation growth to determine course action regarding the establishment of appropriate plants and the ongoing monitoring of public response after changes have been implemented. 	RW BS	June -TBC
No.	Actions	What we have done...	Next Steps	Lead Person/s	Time frame
1.	Work towards full cost recovery for Cityparks' cemeteries	Ongoing discussions between Bereavement Services and Head of Operations	a) Ongoing discussions between Bereavement Services and Head of Operations-Cityparks	RW BS	June-ongoing
2	Identify cemeteries suitable for greater public use to relax and enjoy greater contact with nature/wildlife	Met with Bereavement Services to identify suitable sites: Woodland Valley, Woodingdean; Woodvale and the Extra Mural. Also see above policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seek grant funding to interpret and communications to promote access. b) Explore other opportunities for promotion and events. Also see above policy. 	BS PPT	Mar 2018 onwards
3	Work with Bereavement Services to develop a range of projects to collaboratively deliver improvements to encompass maintenance, volunteering,	Met with Bereavement Services to discuss coordinating memorial services that are delivered in parks and open spaces and to present a single point of contact website offering	a) The Bereavement Service is restructuring and following this period Parks Projects will work with them to develop improvement projects.	BS PPT	Dec 2017

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	promotions, marketing, Closed Chapel usage and memorial sales EQ	a range of options.	b) Consider English Heritage guidance on planning memorial trees and benches.		
4.	Seek to improve heritage and its interpretation at cemeteries and churchyards. EQ	Identified Woodvale and Extra Mural as requiring a conservation management plan so that it is managed with a heritage focus. Shared heritage ambitions with Regency Society. Contacted Historic England about the development of sites such as St Nicholas Churchyard below. (see Heritage page).	a) Parks Projects to meet with Bereavement Service to develop heritage plan pilot. b) Meeting with Regency Society in June.	BS PPT	Mar 2018 onwards
5	Work towards the restoration of St Nicholas Churchyard which is made up of 3 sections, a Rest Garden, churchyard and play area.	Prepared draft Conservation Plan for St Nicholas Churchyard. Met with church representative and friends group to discuss draft. Draft to be shown to managers and councillors in Spring. Contacted Historic England in April to identify guidance documents to assist our ambitions and advisor we should contact to review our proposals. Kay Richardson is the Historic England contact.	a) Engage with Ward Members regarding the development of this ambition. b) Consultation period identified. c) List of potential works to spend Section 106 money identified for St Nicholas, Rest Garden, churchyard and Play. Wards are St Peter's and North Laine and Regency. d) Work with Bereavement services to explore interpretation opportunities.	BS PPT	Dec- June 2018
6	Bring Woodvale Cemetery, as the city's only Historic England registered cemetery, to Green Flag standard.	Early meetings held with Bereavement Services to explore this option.	a) Engage with Ward Members regarding the development of this ambition. b) Meet with Bereavement Services and relevant stakeholders to develop Woodvale plan. Commission conservation plan. c) Attend Brighton Fringe event in May to see how the space could be used differently and potential identify other revenue streams.	RW BS PPT	Jun 2017- May 2018