



Portchester Crematorium
Presentation to
Fareham Borough Council
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Board

June 2019

*John Haskell, Clerk to the
Crematorium Joint Committee
James Clark, Manager and Registrar*





- Crematorium opened on 27 September 1958
- Serves, but not limited to, the Fareham, Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth area – combined population of more than 540,000
- Approximately 3,200 cremations annually – one of the busiest in the UK
- 220,000 cremations since 1958
- Cost of running the crematorium is met from fees paid
- Current cost of a cremation - £630

- Managed by Joint Committee of 2 councillors each from Fareham, Gosport, Havant, and Portsmouth
- Management Agreement -
 - *The 4 local authorities crematoria powers delegated to the Joint Committee*
- Joint Committee decides –
 - *the overall policy for the crematorium and its facilities;*
 - *capital and maintenance works programme;*
 - *approval of accounts;*
 - *setting the scale of fees and charges*

The Crematorium comprises -

- Two chapels and waiting rooms





Extensive and well maintained grounds



Two large car parking areas



- Annual Income and Expenditure for 2018/19 – Gross Income & Expenditure - £2,565,400
- Base Estimate for 2019/20 – Gross Income & Expenditure - £2,591,000

Expenditure includes –

- Costs for employees,
- premises,
- supplies and services,
- repairs and renewals, contribution to capital fund, &
- annual contribution distributed to each local authority

Cremation fee level compared with other crematoria –

- Portchester - £630
- The Oaks (Havant) - £850
- Southampton – £825
- Wessex Vale (Eastleigh)- £915
- Chichester - £1,070
- Guildford - £810

The two chapels –
South Chapel
(80 seated plus 100 standing)

North Chapel
(52 seated plus 20 standing)

Daily they can accommodate
total of 25 funerals (between
9.00am and 3.30pm) based on
half hour service, with four, 45
minute service slots each day

Average number of daily
funerals – 16

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Main Aims, Objectives & Policies

- The grounds – freely open to the public
- Building works of the highest quality
- High standards of service to the public
- An open and welcoming place
- No permanent family memorials in the grounds

Main Aims, Objectives & Policies

- Financial Policies to ensure –
 - Sufficient reserves
 - No precept from the local authorities
 - All capital works funded from revenue income
- Annual contribution distributed to each local authority

Recent Challenges and Opportunities

- Mercury Abatement – A £2.5m scheme requiring ‘retro’ fitting of environmental equipment, completed in 2012
- Opening of the Oaks Crematorium, Havant in Autumn 2013
- Upgrading & refurbishing the South Chapel (2015), and North Chapel (2018)

Current Developments & Investments

- Land is leased from Fareham BC
- The Crematorium is jointly owned



Current Developments & Investments

- The grounds – maintained under contract by Brighstone Landscapes



Current Developments & Investments

- The buildings –
- Fabric maintained under arrangement with Fareham BC's Building Services
- specialist contractors are engaged for specific maintenance work



Current Developments & Investments

- The cremators –
Maintained by Facultatieve Technologies (FT)
- Mercury Abatement –
Complied with legal requirement to carry out by 31
December 2012 work to abate mercury emissions
nationwide by 50%

Mercury Abatement

- CAMEO (*Crematoria Abatement of Mercury Emissions Organisation*) – trading organisation in which those crematoria not abating contribute financially to those that have



Key Achievements

- Joint Committee – longest example of joint collaboration between the 4 authorities
- No financial demand on the authorities
- Large long term capital investment, funded from fees
- Recent projects –
 - Upgrading the South & North Chapels
 - Mercury Abatement
 - The grounds – Pond refurbishment and remodelling
 - Tree sculptures

Key Achievements - *continued*

- Recent projects
 - Internet Broadcasting of Services
 - Television displays for personal tributes
 - Web Site Modernised & Upgraded
 - On Line Book of Remembrance
 - Introduction of 'Walk Through' funerals

Key Achievements - *continued*

- Keeping fees low
- Governance arrangements –
 - Risk Management
 - Health and Safety policy
 - Business Continuity Plan
 - Annual Report
 - Development Plan

Future Challenges and Opportunities

- Meeting customer expectations for funeral dates
 - Ability and (limited) capacity of funeral directors to avoid delays
- Garden of Contemplation & its Fountain - Options to remodel the area
- Investigate the possibility of utilising 'alternative' technologies to generate electricity on site, and ways and means of utilising waste heat
- Refurbishment of the cremators
- Response at times of high demand (during winter period)

Any Questions?

