

Appendix A



Portchester Crematorium

Presentation to Fareham Borough Council Health & Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

June 2023

*John Haskell, Clerk to the
Crematorium Joint Committee
Victoria Hatton, 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
- 233,000 cremations since 1958 (*as at Dec 2022*)
- Cost of running the crematorium is met from fees paid
- Current cost of a cremation - £750

- 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*

Annual Income and Expenditure for 2021/22 –
Gross Income & Expenditure - £2,568,372

Base Estimate for 2023/24 –
Gross Income & Expenditure - £3,180,700

Cremation Fee level compared with other crematoria

- Portchester - £750
- The Oaks (Havant) - £995
- Southampton – £987
- Wessex Vale (Eastleigh)- £1,075
- Chichester - £1,105

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



North Chapel
(48 seated plus 20 standing)

Daily the services are between
9.00am and 4.00pm based on
45 minute service slots

Average number of daily
funerals – 13



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



North Chapel
(48 seated plus 20 standing)

Daily the services are between
9.00am and 4.00pm based on
45 minute service slots

Average number of daily
funerals – 13



Funeral Services

- Average number of daily funerals – 13
- We can accommodate 18 funerals daily
- The Crematorium can accommodate 4,536 funerals annually
- In 2022 there were 3,118 funerals



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 grounds – maintained under contract by Brighstone Landscapes







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

Main Aims, Objectives and Policies

- **Governance** arrangements include –
 - Risk Management
 - Health and Safety policy
 - Business Continuity Plan
 - Annual Report
 - Development Management Plan

Development Management Plan

- Reviewed and approved every 2 years
- Plan covers operations and objectives & statistical information on population growth & death projections
- In the 4 local authority areas –
15 % burials to 85 % cremations
- This trend has remained virtually static for many years

Development Management Plan

- Actual deaths in Fareham – 1,196 (2013)
- 1,278 (2022)
- Projected deaths in Fareham – 1,337 (2023)
- 1,540 (2033)
- 1,693 (2043)

Source – ONS 2018 based Subnational Population Projections

Death Projections for the 4 authorities

2020	5,531 (actual)		2033	6,011
2021	5,683 (actual)		2035	6,157
2023	5,419		2037	6,289
2025	5,509		2039	6,391
2027	5,613		2041	6,470
2029	5,733		2043	6,548
2031	5,870			

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)
- Pandemic – rise in cremation numbers

Current Developments & Investments

- The cremators –
Maintained by Facultatieve Technologies (FT)
- 35 Years old and require replacement
- Decision taken in 2022 to replace with natural gas



Cremators Replacement Programme

- Consultants appointed to advise the Joint Committee;
- Modelling undertaken based on number of funerals and projected funerals;
- Planning constraints;
- Replacement equipment will meet expected demand and population growth

Challenges and Opportunities

- Oaks Crematorium at Havant
- Opened in Autumn 2013
- Impact on the number of cremations at Portchester
- Consequential financial impact

Challenges and Opportunities

- Lee-on-the-Solent Proposed Crematorium
- Impact on the number of cremations at Portchester – likely annual reduction of 1,000 funerals
- Public consultation undertaken
- Planning application submitted

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
 - Obitus Multi Media System
 - Web Casting of Services
 - Television displays for personal tributes
 - Web Site Modernised & Upgraded
 - On Line Book of Remembrance
 - Memorial Tree to be installed
 - Introduction of 'Walk Through' funerals

Two large car parking areas



Future Challenges and Opportunities

- Meeting customer expectations for funeral dates
 - Ability and (limited) capacity of funeral directors to avoid delays
- Replacing the cremators during 2024
- 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
- Response at times of high demand (during winter period)

Future Challenges and Opportunities



Any Questions?

