

MEMORANDUM

54H

Date: - 10th December 2003.

To: - Planning.

From: - Property Services.

For the attention of: - Sarah Houghton

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

11 DEC 2003

Reference: - PS/IN

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Proposed Extension to Provide 3,256 Additional Grave Spaces – Reading Borough Council, Reading Crematorium and Henley Road Cemetery All Hallows Road, Caversham, Reading.

Further to the meeting this afternoon between yourself, Mr Nick Burston, Mr Julian Hunter and myself I confirm the following:

I enclose 5 copies of drawing number HRC/PE/08 to supersede drawing number HRC/PE/07. The differences being the inclusion of the Avenue of existing red oak trees, indication of the existing grave plots and increase in the proposed radii of the kerbs from 4m radii to 6m radii kerbs. I also enclose 5 copies of the same drawing blown up to scale 1:500 as you requested. This includes 1:500 scale acetates for overlaying the 1:500 drawing to show the turning circles of buses and dustcarts.

As previously stated we would propose the removal of the red oak to provide access in to the proposed Grave Yard extension. As we explained in your offices and as stated in the attached report from Steve Radford dated 3rd November 2003 the tree is in a poor condition and will have a limited life expectancy due to its diseased condition. Removal of this tree will ensure the survival of healthier trees either side of it. We have looked at all options for the redesign of the access road, however as we pointed out at our meeting and as can be seen from the attached drawings the required Turning Circle cannot be achieved without the removal of one tree. We are of the opinion that the Tree identified, which is diseased would be the most logical to remove. We feel that the loss of one tree will be compensated by the planting of new trees in the proposed extension and the hedging to the northern boundary of the proposed extension all as shown on attached drawing number HRC/PE/08.

The remaining trees to either side of the one to be removed will only be affected by the formation of the Kerb which we would estimate will affect less than 8% of the root system of one tree and approximately 2% of the other. The new access road has been designed to avoid the spread of the trees canopy as agreed with Richard Stimpson, so as to ensure the root systems were not damaged. As discussed in your offices we were not able to design the road junction to cut across the corner due to the fact that there are graves in this location.

It has always been our main thought to retain the environment at the Crematorium our proposals include planting new trees, hedgerows and wild flower areas all, which is native to Britain. Looking to the long term the extension is to provide burial space for the next 25 to 30 years after which the intention is to turn the recreation ground in to grave spaces and also later still turn the remaining allotments in to grave spaces all of which is owned by the Crematorium. Bearing this in mind we have designed a road layout with car parking spaces that allows these extensions to happen with little extra

cost to the council. Therefore our proposals include a road layout with car parking spaces, which will cater for these extensions for the future.

One of your further concerns was the size of the proposed access road. We would point out that access is required for coaches and dustcarts. As stated Coaches are quite common especially for Asian and West African funerals that tend to visit the site in organised groups. The carriageway of 5.5m is there for the minimum we can accept whilst still providing access.

As Mr Burston pointed out at the meeting we would be pleased if you could arrange for this application to progress to the January Committee bearing in mind the fact that we withdrew our last application to enable the Planning Department to maintain respectable turn over figures in dealing with Planning Applications.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss any of the above please contact me on the extension shown below.

When telephoning please ask

