



Executive
16th July 2007

**Report from the Director of
Environment and Culture**

Ward Affected:
Queens Park

Use of Paddington Cemetery by Salusbury School

Forward Plan Ref: E&C-07/08-001

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Members with a background to the proposed use of Paddington Cemetery by Salusbury School for use as an environmental studies area.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree to the use of Paddington Cemetery by Salusbury School on the basis outlined in this report.
- 2.2 To agree that the Director of Environment and Culture finalises the agreement with the School, subject to final agreement by the Diocese of Willesden on the proposed use.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Salusbury School is a Victorian school opened in 1902. It is located in Salusbury Road and the rear of the school borders the south-western corner of Paddington Cemetery (see map in Appendix 1). The school has just over 650 pupils and open space for the exclusive use of the school (ie playground space) of approximately 2000m sq. This is equivalent to approximately 3m sq per pupil which is both below government recommendations and Brent school's average of 26m sq per pupil.
- 3.2 For the past 10 years the school have used a gate at the rear of the school building to gain direct access into the cemetery for environmental studies. This has been part of a verbal agreement with the Cemetery Service and helps

develop appropriate use of cemeteries as open space provision, especially in areas deficient in open space.

- 3.3 School governors have been discussing with the cemetery service the option of improving the plant diversity and wildlife habitats within the cemetery in the area immediately behind the school in order to improve the quality of their studies. It is proposed that new landscaping be undertaken, which will create two 'outdoor classroom' areas with adjacent woodland and meadow planting. The perimeter of the area will be edged with a low hedge to provide a boundary to better manage children's safety. It should be noted that the area will remain open to use by the public.
- 3.4 The area in question is section 3E. This is a common burial area with no exclusive rights of burial in existence. The last burial took place in 1918 and the area was cleared of headstones in the 1970's by Westminster City Council who managed the cemetery at the time. A public consultation on the proposal has been undertaken, with notices displayed in the cemetery itself and in the local paper. In addition, discussions have taken place with the friends of Paddington Cemetery and the local residents association. The Diocese of Willesden have managed the response to the consultation. Three objections were received from individual members of the public who objected to this type of use, although none of the objectors have relatives buried in this area. The friends of Paddington Cemetery were concerned about the nature of the landscaping and their suggestions were fed into the landscape design.
- 3.5 Paddington Cemetery is in a conservation area and is listed in the National Register of Parks and Gardens. The proposed landscaping plan has been approved by Brent's Planning Service and meets all requirements of English Heritage and the English Garden Society.
- 3.6 The Islamia primary school is also situated on Salusbury Road and backs on to the Cemetery. Officers have discussed this proposal with the School and they are not interested in using the cemetery for a similar purpose. No other schools back onto the cemetery.
- 3.7 In order to 'manage' this new arrangement a formal agreement has been drawn up (attached in Appendix 2). It includes the following key points:
- The school does not have exclusive use to the area and the general public are still able to visit if they wish.
 - The school will not use the area at times when funerals may be taking place in surrounding sections.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The initial landscaping and planting is to be funded by S106 monies. Ongoing maintenance of the area will be undertaken by the Cemetery & Mortuary Service and will be funded by the School and PSA as stated in the Agreement.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial within the proposed area. Brent Council have all rights to the ground.

5.2 Section 3E is consecrated ground and so a faculty for permission for the scheme has to be granted by the local Diocese of Willesden. Officers and Governors have spoken with the Diocese who have no objections to the proposal although this has not formally been received.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 Non specific to the report.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 No implications. Existing cemetery staff will continue with maintenance

Background Papers

All papers regarding consultation can be viewed at Salusbury Primary School, Salusbury Road, London NW6 RG or at The Cemetery Office, Clifford Road, Alperton HA0 1AF

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