



Title of Report:	Coleraine Cemetery Vehicular Access Restriction
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	10th May 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environment and assets
Outcome	Reduction in damage within cemetery
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£6,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	No
Capital/Revenue	Capital
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: January 2020
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In March 2020 committee recommended the implementation of a barrier system to restrict vehicular access to Coleraine Cemetery. This was subsequently approved by Council. This report is to inform Members of the intent to now implement the decision.

2.0 Background (to include any previous decisions of Council)

- 2.1 A report was brought to committee in March 2020 highlighting the ongoing problems associated with unrestricted vehicular access to Coleraine Cemetery. These include:
1. Damage to headstones and memorials. Many drivers cannot negotiate corners without either driving into or reversing into headstones or memorials or driving over graves. This, may in part, be due to the narrowness of the paths, the sharpness of the corners on paths which were not designed to cope with current traffic volumes.
 2. When vehicles meet from opposite directions, they are forced to drive on the grass to pass each other. Also, vehicles will mount the grass to pass stationary vehicles due to the restriction in path width.
 3. Access to the graveside by a hearse and family mourners has been compromised in the past due to parked cars in the cemetery.
 4. Pedestrians and cemetery staff are at risk from motorists many of whom disregard the 10mph speed limit
- 2.2 Council approved the recommendation to restrict vehicular access to those with mobility problems and to manage access during funerals
- 2.3 However, before these measures were implemented the Covid pandemic struck. Initially there were concerns that death rates might increase significantly so Officers decided that, while the pandemic was occurring, it would not be the most appropriate time to install the barrier.
- 2.4 Officers now feel that Councils' decision can now be implemented

3.0 Proposal (for information)

- 3.1 A vehicular restriction barrier will be installed at the entrance to Coleraine Cemetery and operated on the same principle as the existing barrier at Ballymoney Cemetery. Those who can demonstrate mobility issues (eg. 'Blue badge' holders) can avail of a fob allowing car access.
- 3.2 Signage to be erected at the cemetery to inform the public of the intent to restrict vehicles and the proposed date of implementation
- 3.3 Council PR to run a media campaign to inform the public of the change and how those with mobility problems might obtain a fob. The campaign

will also highlight the reasons for the change and why access had to be restricted.

4.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee notes the intention to now implement the Council decision to restrict vehicular access to Coleraine Cemetery.