

Title of Report:	COLERAINE CEMETERY VEHICULAR ACCESS RESTRICTION
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	10th March 2020
For Decision or For Information	FOR DECISION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environments 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:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

Unrestricted vehicular access to Coleraine Cemetery continues to result in damage to headstones and memorials which leads not only to significant repair costs but significant distress to families and other visitors. This report outlines a proposal to reduce the ongoing problems and asks Council to approve its' implementation.

2.0 Background

Coleraine Cemetery has a car park outside the main gates. However, due to unrestricted vehicular access car drivers currently are able to drive and park adjacent to the graveside. This unrestricted access creates many problems, namely,

1. Damage to headstones and memorials. The appended photographs graphically illustrate the significant damage (in terms of distress to families and repair cost). 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 (see appended photographs) 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

3.0 Proposals

Faced with a similar problem Ballymoney Council introduced an automatic barrier system to restrict vehicular access to Knock Road Cemetery back in 2014. Those who have mobility issues could apply for a fob which allow them to open the barrier and drive closer to the graveside. All others park in the car park.

Reducing the number of cars accessing the cemetery led to a significant reduction in damage to headstones and memorials. It also reduced the potential for pedestrians and cemetery staff to be hit by a car.

It is proposed to introduce a similar system in Coleraine Cemetery. This would ensure that only those with a genuine need could access the

cemetery by car and all others would have to use the car park. Given the experience in Ballymoney this would reduce the damage, family distress, repair cost and improve safety for pedestrians.

4.0 Options

1. Do nothing – accept the damage and distress caused by cars along with potential for injury where cars and pedestrians share the same paths.
2. Introduce a barrier system to restrict car access to only those with mobility issues.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Council introduces an automatic barrier system (Option 2) to restrict vehicular access to Coleraine Cemetery.

Appendix: Headstone Knocked Over



Damaged Surrounds







Graves driven over





Protective measures dislodged





Narrow paths leading to surface damage

