

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: CEMETERIES SERVICE PROVISION TO THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY
From: HEAD OF LAND SERVICES		
Date: 22 AUGUST 2007	Ref: KW/KF/MB	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the updated agreement between the cemeteries service and the Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society regarding the operation of the Muslim section within Cambusnethan cemetery, Wishaw. In addition, it seeks agreement on the extents of this cemetery.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An area of ground within Cambusnethan cemetery, Wishaw was designated for Muslim interments in the early 1980s.
- 2.2 To date there have been 88 Muslim interments. The section has been set out to reflect the Islamic tradition of the face of the deceased being turned to face Mecca.
- 2.3 A meeting between cemetery management and representatives of the Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society took place during August 2006 and a variety of matters were discussed and subsequently a document produced that set out the level of service to be provided.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 There is an issue regarding the extension of the Muslim section, while the Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society contend that it was agreed that the section would be that shown in Appendix 2, there is no supporting evidence that such an agreement was reached and, therefore, it is necessary to seek approval for allocating this area to Muslim burial.
- 3.2 Analysis of the number of Muslim interments each year indicates that seven interments per year is to be expected. An initial design for the section will provide 104 lairs, along with 36 reduced sized lairs for stillborn children and one lair for Holy Scriptures. This compliment of lairs would provide for Muslim interments for about 15 years. Further developments within the cemetery are planned and will be presented to committee at a later date.
- 3.3 There is the suggestion but no obvious trend to date, that Muslim interments may increase in Cambusnethan due to the establishment of the Mosque at Mossend.

- 3.4 The remaining available space within Cambusnethan cemetery for non-Muslim interments is currently estimated to provide new lairs for a further 15 years.
- 3.5 Followers of Islamic faith believe that after a body is buried the grave should remain undisturbed, which means only one interment takes place in a lair. This means the maximum use of the section will be 15 years (assuming the current level of interment).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Committee agree to designate the area in Cambusnethan cemetery shown on the attached plan as the Muslim section.
- 4.2 That Committee note the level of service agreed with the Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society.



Kenneth Wilson
Head of Land Services

Members seeking further information on this report, please contact Kenneth Wilson, Head of Land Services (0141 304 1846).