

WIGTON CEMETERY – ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – PUBLIC MEETING 17 APRIL 2024 @ 7p.m.

Present problems:

The existing gravelled surface is not attractive and presents difficulties to wheelchair users, people with mobility problems and families using baby buggies.

The way the heavy main gates are hung make access to/exit from the entrance area problematic and the shape of the grassed area around the Cenotaph makes vehicle turning difficult.

The paths to the Cenotaph are too narrow to allow wheelchair access or for two people to walk side-by-side.

Flooding occurs on a regular basis, especially just inside the main gates.

Proposed solutions:

The gravelled surface requires replacement with a smooth user-friendly surface.

By the time we provide a driveable surface, it would need to be 12 ft wide (vehicle width + enough width for passengers to get in/out), it pretty much occupies the area and rather than leaving areas which may present trip hazards, we feel it would be wise to resurface the whole area in a single surface material.

By resurfacing the whole area, it will mean hearse & limousine access is provided for funerals.

The vehicles will no longer need to park on the road, which is safer for attendees.

Similarly, we are giving consideration to the provision of a disabled parking area in the area at the end of the Chapel

The extant paths to the Cenotaph will be widened by about 6" either side.

The present "shield" shape of the grassed area around the Cenotaph will have the toe/point nearest the main gates cut off and some of the curvature behind will need to be cut-back to accommodate the new surface.

The new surface will be laid to include provision for water run-off into the drainage system.

The way the gates presently hang will be changed to accommodate the new raised surface, and the gates will be temporarily removed for refurbishment before being reinstalled.

The new surface level will start flush from pavement level at the entrance for easy access.

The existing flower beds in the entrance area will be retained with new edging installed.

The proposals, which have been planned for a number of years, represent a massive investment by Wigton Burial Joint Committee and to that end we have assiduously accrued funds earmarked for the project but we are, of course, also considering applying for other sources of funding to assist with the costs.

We now feel the time has come to commit to complete the project in Spring/Summer 2024.

We will be holding a "see-for-yourselfes" opportunity on Wednesday 17th April starting at 7:00 p.m. where Committee members will be on hand to outline the plan, before moving into the Vestry for an open meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. to further discuss the proposals in the light of any comments received.

We would ask that as many people as possible contribute to the discussions as your ideas are very much welcomed – see you on the 17th although if you can't make but would like to contribute or ask any questions please contact any Committee Member

Wigton Burial Joint Committee 31 March 2024.