

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO : LEISURE COMMITTEE - 11TH JANUARY 2000

SUBJECT : CEMETERY EXTENSION - ALLOTMENT GARDENS, OAKS ROAD, KENILWORTH

FROM : HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members with the approved works at Oaks Road Cemetery, as part of the cemetery extension and the arrangements that have taken place with the Town Council and the allotment holders, following the item that went to Committee on 21st September 1999.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The council has a responsibility for the disposal of the dead and Kenilworth Cemetery, one of four operated throughout the District, is now limited in terms of burial space. The intention, following approval by this Committee, is to extend the land which was already set aside for an extension to the cemetery but is currently being used as allotment gardens and is leased to Kenilworth Town Council. The proposal set out was to give the allotment holders 12 months notice in order to vacate the site and the lease would be terminated. Incidentally the lease did expire in December 1998 and the council has not renewed the lease with the Town Council for this reason.

3. THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The details that were placed before the September Leisure Committee set out the way the land would be developed together with costings. It also stated that we would be giving the allotment holders 12 months notice as advised by our Legal Dept. Although, we have been told that we actually only need to give 3 months notice to Kenilworth Town Council to terminate the lease.
- 3.2 The recommendation at the last Committee was that your Officers now consult with the Town Council, allotment holders and local residents on the layout and I am pleased to confirm that a meeting did take place in the Town Council offices on Tuesday, 23rd November. The allotment holders were present at that meeting with members of the committee of a private allotment in Gypsy Lane, members of the Town Council and the Parks, Cemetery and Crematorium Manager.
- 3.3 The allotment holders were concerned that they were losing their plots although fully understood that the land was purchased in the first place for burial extension and realised at some time that this land would be required. It was made clear that a number of allotment holders had already given up their plots and they were hoping that alternative sites would be found for them. In the course of the discussion, it became apparent that there were already vacancies on Gypsy Lane and some allotment holders at Oaks Road Cemetery had already moved over to this site. It is interesting that the rental was £7 per year less than that charged by the Town Council for Oaks Road. It was felt that negotiations between the allotment holders and the Gypsy Road Association, will continue and hopefully that those wanting plots

will be accommodated on this site. Once discussions have taken place, if there was still a need to provide further plots, it is understood that the Town Council will contact the District to ask for further assistance.

- 3.4 Discussions did take place that perhaps the District Council would be prepared to help relocate the allotments in terms of providing weed control on existing plots at Gypsy Lane and also cultivating the plots which would give the allotment holders a better start to their new site.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Harmonisation with many of the issues set out in Key Issues.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are asked to (a) note the report and (b) if necessary, the District Council will assist in the preparation of plots for those tenants who relocated from Oaks Road Cemetery. This would be carried out by our contractors, Glendale.

Nigel Bishop
Parks, Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager

Background Papers : Previous Committee Reports

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Areas in district affected : Kenilworth