

**REPORT TO: Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee  
20 September 2021**

**REPORT OF: Ian Cousins Property Manager**

**SUBJECT: Update on Water Feature Feasibility Study**

**1.0 Purpose of this Report**

1.1 To update the Committee on the water feature feasibility study.

**2.0 Introduction**

2.1 As part of our programme of repairs and renewals we have looked further at the water feature and the requirement to provide an improved solution.

**3.0 The Existing**



3.1 The fountain was constructed in 2003 as part of the development that included flower bays for the chapels, a purpose-built room for the books of remembrance (book room) and the construction of waiting areas.

- 3.2 The flowers bays form part of a covered way around a large open courtyard which contains the water feature. This covered way also provide access to the book room. The covered way has glazing to the fountain side with access points from the east and west near the book room. The immediate area around the fountain has benches and small amount of planting.
- 3.3 Water is pumped up through the centre of the fountain which is a large concrete structure with water then running down across a large rough textured surface then cascading down into trough to be recycled back into the system.



#### 4.0 Operation

- 4.1 In recent years, we have encountered problems with the reliability of the pump and the plant. The water quality has not been acceptable with a mouldy / green appearance occurring over prolonged periods.
- 4.2 Whilst the reliability in the last twelve months has improved the plant is of an age that will require further work in the next few years. The discoloration of the water is a more significant issue and despite the best efforts to improve the operation / treatment to eliminate this fault the water frequently remains discoloured.
- 4.3 We have multiple factors leading to this discoloration occurring including:
- Large quantity of nearby vegetation, trees, grass, shrubs etc
  - Large surface area with only a thin film of water across it.
  - High temperatures causing evaporation.
  - High temperatures generating mould growth.
  - Windy weather resulting in water loss.
  - Rough texture of the large surface area of the fountain retaining debris.
  - The capacity of the system to sufficiently treat the water.
- 4.4 All these factors are exacerbated when the plant is non-operational due a fault and it can take a considerable amount of time to get the water quality back to an acceptable quality.

## 5.0 Improvements

- 5.1 We have taken this opportunity to look again at the provision of water feature in this area and its use / attractiveness to visitors.
- 5.2 Compared to other areas of the Crematorium visitor don't spend time in this area due to various reasons including:
- Limited access points.
  - The poor appearance of the fountain.
  - Conflicts with exit routes from the chapels.
  - Limited planting and seating.
- 5.3 We have considered the provision of a different form of water feature, a piece of art, alongside improved seating and planting but our existing scope doesn't include the access issues or proximity to the chapel exits.

## 6.0 Next Step

- 6.1 We propose that existing scope is extended to look at options to update and improve facilities to meet the changing requirements of all users of the Crematorium.
- 6.2 The revised scope will include the but would not be limited to the fountain area, chapels, flower bays and areas adjoining the recently refurbished book room. We will also consider the provision of a sculpture, a memorial tree alongside the option for a water feature.

## 7.0 Costs

- 7.1 At this point we propose a revised budget of £7,500 for initial feasibility design works. This will be funded by the funds set aside for Repairs and Renewals Programme and these costs will be added to the Programme for 2021 / 22.

## 8.0 Recommendation

- 8.1 **That the proposal to examine options to update and improve facilities at the crematorium, as outlined in paragraph 6 of the report be approved, with the cost for the initial feasibility design works of £7,500 being funded from the Repairs and Renewals Programme for 2021/22, and that in due course a further report on the outcome be considered by the Joint Committee.**

**Ian Cousins**  
**Property Manager**