**CEMETERY REGULATIONS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**

1. **EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS**

Exclusive Right of Burial is an official document confirming that the purchaser (owner) has the right to say who can be buried within the grave space (plot). Rights of burial only are purchased, not the land itself which remains the property of the Authority (DMBC). At the end of the period the EROB can be renewed by the grave owner, however should the Exclusive Right lapse then the rights refer back to the Authority.

1. **CEMETERY ACCESS**

Pedestrian access is available at all times; however, we do ask visitors to be mindful of the time of their visits during the darker winter months as there is no lighting in the cemeteries.

Public vehicles are only permitted within the grounds when part of a funeral cortegeor for disabled access. The speed limit within all cemeteries is 10 mph. Please do not drive on grassed areas and avoid any area being used by hearses and funeral corteges.

Dogs must be kept on a lead. They are not allowed on graves and should be under the strict control of the owner. Dog fouling laws apply.

1. **FLORAL TRIBUTES**

The Council will remove floral tributes 4 weeks after the burial and then seed the graves as soon as it is practically possible. Should you wish you may garden the grave with annual bedding plants. The Authority reserves the right to level and seed garden graves if they become neglected.

1. **GRAVE EXCAVATION**

When a grave is excavated a stage is built for the spoil from the grave to stand on. In some cases the stage must be place on another grave; this is usually just for a matter of hours, however can be longer.

When a grave/plot is re-opened it is the responsibility of the owner to arrange for the memorial to be removed by a stone mason.

It is sometimes necessary for the Authority to remove grave memorials for access or safety purposes. This does not occur often and when these circumstances do arise we ensure that the memorials are put back into position as soon as possible after the burial has taken place.

1. **TEMPORARY MARKERS**

Following a burial in a new grave a temporary stone marker or wooden cross can be placed at the head of the grave for a maximum period of 12 months after the burial and must be removed when a

permanent headstone is erected. These markers must measure 12” x 12” x 2” or no higher than 3ft if a cross and can be obtained through a monumental mason who is registered with the Authority.

1. **APPLICATIONS FOR MEMORIALS**

Applications for memorial work must be submitted by a registered Stone Mason. Work is only carried out with the written consent of the registered owner(s) of the Exclusive Rights of Burial and must comply with the Councils regulations. Information regarding sizes of memorials permitted can be obtained from your memorial Mason or on our website. Please note a permit fee is applicable.

1. **MEMORABILLIA**

While we want people to be able to grieve and pay their respects to loved ones in their own personal way, it is important that the cemetery remains a dignified and safe place, and the regular maintenance of the cemetery can be carried out.

The placement of “memorabilia” on graves should not cause any upset or inconvenience to other cemetery visitors. Therefore;

* Any items of memorabilia must be placed within the confines of a headstone base or within an approved stonemason fitted kerb surround.
* Items must not exceed 12 inches and must not be made of glass, ceramic or any other breakable material.
* Homemade or shop bought kerb surrounds/fencing are not permitted.

**The Council reserve the right to remove any items or fittings that contravene the regulations and will not be held responsible for any losses or damages. Items are left at the risk of the grave owner.**

**Other items covered in the complete Cemetery regulations:**

* **Grave allocation**
* **Memorial maintenance**
* **Woodland and Meadowland burials**
* **Transfer of ownership**

**If you require a complete copy of the cemetery regulations, please contact Bereavement Services via one of the below methods.**