



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

Tuesday 24th September 2024

REPORT OF BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER & REGISTART

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update committee on performance at Llwydcoed crematorium and provide statistical information

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee:
- Notes the information provided in respect of statistics and performance in respect of Llwydcoed Crematorium; and
 - Notes the information provided in respect of ongoing works at Llwydcoed Crematorium.

3. STATISTICS AND PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the statistics and performance in respect of Llwydcoed Crematorium, as outlined within the table below:

Cremations	
1970-2020	57580
2021	1409
2022	1265
2023	1270
Jan – Mar 2024	333
April 2024	120
May 2024	97
June 2024	81
July 2024	98
August 2024	72
Total to date	62325

Year to 31 March 2025	Year to 31 March 2024 (comparison figures shown in red)		
Adults	508	(-50)	458
Children	2	(+3)	5
Stillbirths	1	(-2)	3
NVF's	41	(-8)	49
Body organs	0	(-2)	2
Scattered	6	(-2)	4
Interred	53	(-26)	27
Released	452	(-15)	437
Applications for memorials			
Book of Remembrance	8	(-2)	6
Memorial Cards	0		0
Plaques on Plots	82	(-32)	50
Plaques in Garden	1	(+1)	2
Rose Bushes	2		2
Memorial Leaves	5	(-2)	3

3.2 Figures indicate that overall cremation numbers have fallen by around 10% in comparison to previous year, subsequent memorialisation has also fallen as a result. The deaths registered in RCT & Merthyr for August 2023 & 2024 were 294 (2023) and 283 (2024). The crematorium has conducted cremations for around 30% of all deaths registered in both areas in 2023 and 25% in 2024. Cremated remains continue to be arranged at Llwydcoed from other facilities. There are a number of contributing factors to this: direct cremations taking place at other facilities and national companies (usually cost led). The continuing disruption from local road works resulting in families choosing other venues for cremation.

4. UPADTE IN RELATION TO ONGOING WORKS AT LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM

4.1 **Provision of a generator** due to power interruptions at the facility and received the following update in respect of these works:

- “The design / planned location of the generator set was submitted to RCTCBC conservation officer on the 09/08/24 and we await his agreement on the scheme.
- We have also submitted the G99 application to the National Grid on 04/09/24 to gain their permission to connect the generator to

the public electricity supply. We again await their agreement to move forward. I met National Grid on site to discuss the modification required to the incoming electrical supply last Friday (13.09.24). They indicated that consideration of the proposed scheme will be given in the next fortnight There will also be a lead time after purchase of generator and this order will not be placed until all arrangements are in place.”

4.2 Broadband Improvements:

The original scheme was to install underground cable with fibre links for broadband. We are now advised that additional and stronger “wi-fi” bridges are sufficient and we await update on this regarding timeframe. Costs will be significantly lower for this project as a result of the groundwork no longer required.

The urgency of this has been stressed due to the interruptions to digital services and failure of downloads which has resulted in refunded fees to families

This work will now take place Monday/Tuesday 23rd /24th September

4.3 Repair to window in Book of Remembrance Room:

There is concern for safety of visitors as a result of the condition of a window in the Book Room. The building is listed and, as such, repairs are specialist

The work has been highlighted as urgent and it is possible due to the likelihood of inclement weather that should the window deteriorate further the Book of Remembrance will need to be relocated Monday to Friday in the interim and be unavailable at weekends as the room will have to be closed to public until repair is made.

An update was requested this week without response

4.4 Repair to window in main chapel

The window in the main chapel is letting in rainwater. This has resulted in staining to the décor and if allowed to continue is likely to affect the monitor used to display digital tributes. Due to the listed status of the building, type of glass specified and height of window this is specialist works.

An update on cost and timeframes has been requested without response.

4.5 **Annual Carol Service at Llwydcoed**

Preparations are underway in conjunction with NHS for this year's carol service. The service usually takes place on a Saturday morning early December and refreshments are provided. The event has been growing in popularity and it is anticipated that following the launch of "Letters to Heaven" initiative last year that this year will also prove successful. Full details will be provided once a date and content are finalised. It is hoped that some members will be able to attend this event.
