



FAO: Funeral Directors/Arrangers

## **Re: COVID-19 Changes to Cemetery and Burial Procedures**

### **Update for funerals in Kynaston Road Cemetery 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

As the restrictions regarding the COVID-19 situation come into effect again in England today, Didcot Town Council have amended regulations in line with Central Government's advice.

Please be assured that this advice is being put in place to help and protect the public, your colleagues and our staff – who are vital in the future delivery and operation of this service.

From Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020, please follow the advice below:

1. **Dropping paperwork off** – Please continue to send all paperwork either electronically or by post/using the post box at the Civic Hall. We ask that you call 07395909267 or email [lblake@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:lblake@didcot.gov.uk) to advise that they have been left.
2. **Making payment** – We are now asking for all payments to be paid by BACS by using the details below (please advise when this has been done):
  - Didcot Town Council
  - Account number: 60331481
  - Sort code: 20-01-09

Please use the name of the deceased as the reference so that we can link the payment to the correct interment.

If this is not possible, please advise us that a cheque is included with the paperwork.

3. **Coffin checks** – These will be carried out by the Outdoor Services Manager as usual, but we ask that the bearers and funeral directors/arrangers keep a respectful 2m distance whilst the Outdoor Services Manager does this.
4. **Graveside** – As per the Government's amended guidance, a maximum number of 30 mourners are allowed to attend a funeral and it is advised that only close friends and family attend (anyone working is not included in this number). All those present must follow social distancing guidelines. Mourners should be asked to stand 2 metres away from the grave and 2 metres apart from other household groups, unless they are in a support bubble. We also ask that you inform us of a rough estimate of mourners at each funeral.
5. **Memorials** – We are continuing to allow Memorials to be erected at the cemetery. Please email the Outdoor Services Manager, Tony Rudge, to book work in at the cemetery. His email address is [trudge@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:trudge@didcot.gov.uk). Again, please adhere to the social distancing guidelines set out by the Government.

It is understood that these requests will be difficult for your families at a time of mourning, however by following them we will help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

### **What you can do to support us:**

- Please contact families who have bookings to advise them of the changes relevant to their needs. Please explain that we need to do this to limit transmission of COVID-19 alongside the current Government advice.
- Please advise new clients of the limit on the number of mourners at the point of enquiry, currently 30.
- Please feel free to circulate this to ministers/celebrants that you have contact with.
- The full advice on attending funerals from the Government, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

- Please keep in contact by emailing Lucy Blake, the Office Services Manager [lblake@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:lblake@didcot.gov.uk) or phoning 07395909267 with any questions you might have. Things are changing very quickly, and we will endeavour to keep you informed as much as possible. Tony Rudge, the Outdoor Services Manager is also available during these uncertain times. His email address is [trudge@didcot.gov.uk](mailto:trudge@didcot.gov.uk) and his telephone number is 07593095443.

### **What you can expect from us:**

- We will do all that we can to provide a solid, reliable, and professional service throughout these hard times.
- We will communicate with you as much as possible through email, or by putting information on our website, [www.didcot.gov.uk](http://www.didcot.gov.uk). We will also put advice for families on our website.
- Be assured that all we are doing is in the best interest of the bereaved, their families and you. Our office may be closed but we are still working.

Thank you for your support. Please stay well and safe. We will get through this by supporting each other in this important and empathetic service to the community.

### **Didcot Town Council**

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