



«OWNER_FORENAME» «OWNER_SURNAME»
«ADDRESS1»
«ADDRESS2»
«ADDRESS3»
«POSTCODE»

Reply to South Bristol Cemetery &
Crematorium
Bridgwater Road
Bristol
BS13 7AS
E-mail cems.crems@bristol.gov.uk
Our ref L1- AJ «NUMBER»
Date 3 June 2024

Dear «OWNER_FORENAME» «OWNER_SURNAME»,

We write concerning the Muslim burial area at South Bristol Cemetery as our records show you are the recorded owner of burial plot «NUMBER» in cemetery area AJ. You may be aware that this area of the cemetery has suffered from some grave subsidence, leaving the area uneven and causing some memorial stones to become unstable. We want the cemetery to be a high quality and peaceful space for all, offering a dignified last resting place for loved ones and providing a place of comfort for families and friends who come to remember them. To help achieve this, we need to address the issues affecting the burial area.

The repair works, due to start in early summer, will bring the burial area up to the standard expected by repairing the subsided graves, filling some of the lower areas and providing a new lawned surface. There will be no excavation of soils or holes dug below the surface. The repair works will address the overall unevenness of this area and will enable cemetery staff to maintain the grass in keeping with the rest of the site and in accordance with the Conditions of Purchase.

There will be no charge to the plot owners for any of this work.

Earth Mounding

An earth mound is a low mound formed between the memorial stone and towards the foot of the grave, made from topsoil. The Muslim Burial Group have requested that burial mounds be formed during the repair works.

Unless families or plot holders request otherwise, an earth mound will be formed over the grave. Space will be left around the mound for access to the grave and memorial stone.

Consultation and your choices

We understand the sensitive nature of these works and will work closely with families to ensure their views are taken into account wherever possible. We've worked closely with the Muslim Burial Group in developing these plans, but we understand these burials are very personal.

Jonathan James
Head of Service Natural &
Marine Environment

Website
www.bristol.gov.uk



Where families have placed memorial gifts on graves and constructed edgings, including planting, we hope you will agree to move these, so the repair works can take place. The council will assist in the moving of these items.

We have allowed the period of four weeks from the date of this letter for families to visit the cemetery and remove any items they wish to keep safe. This period of four weeks extends to Monday 1 July 2024.

Preparation for the works

To do the repairs we will need to temporarily move all the existing memorials from the Muslim burial area. A precision survey has been completed to accurately record the position of each memorial stone before it is moved. Memorial stones will be stored carefully in an area close by for a period of time and there will also be restricted access to the burial area as a whole. The council will be arranging for the memorial stones to be moved, stored and replaced at the end of the project.

We are asking that families remove any other non-standard memorialisation, including items of value or importance which they wish to retain. These should be stored by the plot holder for safe keeping during the works. **Please remove these items as soon as you can, and within four weeks of the date of this letter.**

Any other memorial items (non-permitted memorialisation) left at the burial area after four weeks will be moved by cemetery staff into individual storage containers. Families will be given a further eight weeks to collect these items, but anything remaining in storage after this deadline will be disposed of.

Upon completion of the repair works, the memorial stones will be returned to their original position above each grave. Please be aware that other memorial items will not be returned to the graves unless agreed with cemetery staff in advance. Due to long term impact on the site and other graves, trees and other plants cannot be planted, or replanted, following the work.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the information in this letter, we would be pleased to discuss these with you. Please call or email our Project Manager using the contact details at the bottom of this letter.

Where no response to this letter is received in the period set out above, the council will remove all items from the grave surface. The removal of the memorials will enable the contractor to return the area to a smooth ground profile with no sunken areas and will allow mounded or uniform memorials, as seen elsewhere around the cemetery.

How we will be repairing the Muslim burial area

We hope the repair work will minimise the need to do any more works in the future but in order to do it safely, we need to add new soil to the graves where the sinking has occurred. Soil needs to be adequately settled over the burial area to allow the safe movement of people and equipment across the cemetery site during the works. This is also essential for both the long-term presentation of the area and the ongoing stability of the memorial stones.

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After the memorial stones have been moved, we expect the remedial works to take approximately two weeks to complete, taking place in July and August subject to dry weather.

The Muslim burial area will be worked on with construction machinery and once finished, the memorial stones will all be returned to their original position, straightened and aligned as originally intended. The topsoil will then be respread and levelled to allow seeding. While the seeds germinate and grow, access to the graves will be discouraged to allow the lawn to establish.

We expect some future settlement to occur, but rest assured this is normal and not something we can avoid.

Drop-in meetings

There are two opportunities for you to meet with council officers before the repairs start. They will be able to provide you with additional information, answer your questions or discuss specific details of the work.

- Tuesday 11 June 2024, 10am to 12 noon (10:00hrs to 12:00hrs)
- Tuesday 11 June 2024, 6pm to 8pm (18:00hrs to 20:00hrs). Please note: the cemetery gates will remain open to accommodate attendees.

Both meetings will take place at the Muslim Burial Area (AJ), South Bristol Cemetery, Bridgwater Road, Bedminster Down, Bristol, BS13 7AS.

If you are not able to attend on the day, please use the contact details below to arrange a call or meeting at a time convenient to you.

Translations

We enclose translations of this letter in Urdu, Bengali and Arabic. If you would like this information in a different format, for example Braille, audio tape, large print, computer disc or other community languages, please contact our Project Manager using the contact details below.

Your feedback and preferences

We want to be sure you've had the opportunity to ask questions and we'd like your agreement for these remedial works to take place. If we don't hear from you, we will take this to mean you understand what the planned works involve and agree to the works taking place.

If you would like to discuss the plans, or if you have any further questions, please contact Tom Worley, Project Manager via email tom.worley@bristol.gov.uk or call 07710 448 299.

Yours sincerely

Ariaf Hussain

Ariaf Hussain
Business Unit Manager Cemeteries and Crematoria
Bristol City Council

Jonathan James
Head of Service Natural &
Marine Environment

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