

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 4 December 2018

Recommendation from the Council meeting on 19 November 2018:-

39. PETITION

The Mayor received a petition about the Lawn Cemetery in Southway, Hatfield which was presented by Miss Jade Doherty on behalf of the family of the late Simey Doherty who was buried in Hatfield Lawn Cemetery in May 2018.

The petition sought to make two exceptions to the Council's Lawn Cemetery guidelines for the Simon Doherty burial plot:-

- to allow a variety of memorials to remain on the Simey Doherty plot prior to permanent memorials being arranged;
- to permit larger permanent memorials to fit with their cultural traditions.

As the petition contained more than 1500 signatures it was discussed by the Council in accordance with the Petition Scheme.

The report of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) helped the Council to decide how to respond.

The Cabinet had agreed in August 2018 to expand the remit of the Cross Party Crematorium Procurement Group to consider and make recommendations to it on the way forward for grave clearance at the Lawn Cemetery. Given that the recommendation of the Cross Party group would be considered by the Cabinet at a future meeting, it was suggested that the Council refer this to the Cabinet to then ask the Cross Party Crematorium Procurement Group to discuss the issues raised in the petition and recommend the way forward back to the Cabinet.

Having listened to the presentation of the petition and following discussion the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the content of the petition and report be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet be recommended to consult the views of the Cross Party Crematorium Procurement Group on the issues raised in the petition before making a decision on the way forward for grave clearance at the Lawn Cemetery.