

**MARGAM JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT & REGISTRAR**

**24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

**SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION**

**WARDS AFFECTED:**

All

**FILMING AT MARGAM CREMATORIUM**

**Purpose of Report**

To inform Members of a recent decision to allow filming at the Crematorium by a television company who are following a local Funeral Director in his day to day work.

**Background**

We received a request from a television company, who are following a local funeral director in his day to day work, to record a funeral service. The request, which had the full support of the family concerned, was initially turned down in accordance with the policy of the Crematorium. A further request was received asking us to reconsider the position. After discussions between the Chair, Director of Finance, Clerk and Superintendent it was decided to grant permission under the Council's urgency action procedure. The appropriate documentation was prepared and signed by the Chair, Vice Chair and Leader and these are attached for Members attention.

A report will be prepared for the next meeting with some recommendations for a revised policy.

**Appendices**

Appendix Urgency Action

## **Recommendation**

That the Urgency Action decision be noted and that a report be submitted to Members on a revised policy.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To enable Members to make a decision on a revised policy in relation to filming at the Crematorium.

## **List of Background Papers**

Urgency Action

## **Officer Contact**

Mr. C. Phillips– Superintendent & Registrar

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Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot

F+R  
0364

TO: Chief Executive

From: Director of

F+CS

**OFFICER EXECUTIVE URGENCY ACTION**

Please arrange consultation with relevant Members in accordance with the Council's approved urgency delegation arrangements to officers, this being an urgent matter, where any delay would prejudice the Council's or the public's interests.

SUBJECT: *Filming of Funerals*

**REPORT AND REASON FOR URGENCY:**

(continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

*The report is attached. The reason for urgency is the fact that the funeral concerned is due to take place on 16th March 2015. Therefore the matter cannot be put before a meeting of the Joint Committee before that date.*

**OFFICER'S RESOLUTION:**

*See attached*

Note: This matter is\* / is not\* a private exempt item. If private - exempt Para No.\* (\* delete as appropriate/insert Para No as appropriate)  
This matter is not subject to 'call-in'.

Signed:

*[Signature]*

Date:

*10/3/15*

CONSULTATION	#Tel. Consult.	SIGNATURE	DATE (please complete)
*Leader		<i>A.H. Thomas</i>	<i>10/03/15</i>
*Relevant Cabinet Member (*or in absence, any other two Cabinet Members)	<i>EVL</i>	<i>E.V. Fairman</i>	<i>11/03/15</i>
#Relevant Scrutiny Chair	<i>PS 11/03/15</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>12/03/15</i>

The above Chair agrees / does not agree that the decision may proceed for implementation as a matter of urgency.  
(\* or in absence Vice Chair)

*\* Cllr Mrs P James, Vice Chair of Morgan Joint Com. Cttee.*

CEX/022J

## **Filming of Funerals**

A request was received from GRJ Media to film a funeral service in the Crematorium Chapel on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. They are a company based in Ammanford and responsible for making a BBC programme about the funeral industry. The programme features a local Funeral Director. The family of the deceased have requested the filming.

The request was initially refused as the policy regarding filming within Crematorium grounds and resolved on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2009 is as follows:

**(1) No filming or photography of any funeral be allowed within the Crematorium grounds without the express written consent of the family.**

**(2) No filming or photography be allowed in the Chapel or wreath court.**

**(3) Exterior filming or photography of any funeral cease at the point when the hearse reaches the Crematorium porch.**

A further email was subsequently received asking for the request to be reconsidered.

The matter has been discussed at length between the Superintendent and GRJ Media and the Chair has been consulted. The proposed decision is that consent should be granted in this instance and that the Joint Committee will be asked to review the policy in the longer term. The funeral director shall be required to produce the written consent of the family.