

MARGAM JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE CLERK

MATTER FOR INFORMATION

WARDS AFFECTED:

All

MARGAM CREMATORIUM PROPOSED LISTING UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to inform Members of a proposal to include Margam Crematorium in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Background

2. Ever since its construction in 1969 Margam Crematorium has attracted interest from commentators on architectural developments in general and design of crematoria in particular. There was some general assumption that the crematorium was listed but in fact that was not so. Therefore, it came as no surprise to receive a letter from Cadw proposing that the building be included in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest under Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. A copy of the letter and the proposed description is attached as an appendix to this report.
3. Under current legislative provisions the listed building regime is not applied when the initial notification is sent out only when the building is actually included in the list. Therefore, we await confirmation from Cadw of completion of the listing process.
4. Following receipt of the notification I wrote to Cadw indicating that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council were the owner of the building. Whilst not resisting the listing I emphasised to Cadw that

this is very much a working building which requires alterations from time to time to conform with operational and environmental requirements and requesting that this be borne in mind should any application be made for listed building consents.

5. I also commented generally on the description and provided Cadw with some background research material on the structure of the Crematorium and its stained glass in particular.

Financial Impact

6. This is not possible to quantify at the moment but, inevitably, the listed building status might give rise to additional costs when there is a requirement to do work to the building.

Equality Impact Assessment

7. Not relevant.

Workforce Impact

8. None

Legal Impacts

9. These are explained in the report.

Risk Management

10. There is no relevant effect here.

Consultation

11. None is required.

Recommendation

12. The report is for information purposes only.

Appendices

13. Appendix – Correspondence from Cadw

List of Background Papers

14. Correspondence from Cadw and response from Head of Legal Services.

Officer Contact

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Estates Management	Eich cyfeirnod	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	Your reference	
The Quays	Ein cyfeirnod	qA1202590 / 87732
Brunel Way	Our reference	
Baglan Energy Park	Dyddiad	24 November 2016
Neath	Date	
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	Direct line	
	Ebost	Evelyn.Raffour@wales.gsi.gov.uk
	Email:	

Dear Sir

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST
MARGAM CREMATORIUM, OFF HEOL CAE'R-BONT, MARGAM**

The above property has recently been brought to our attention with a request to look at it for listing. It is one of the duties of the Welsh Ministers to compile a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest under Section 1 of the above Act.

A Historic Buildings Inspector from the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service (Cadw) has inspected the building and has provided a draft description – copy attached – which sets out our preliminary assessment. We propose to proceed shortly with the listing, but first, can you please confirm that you are the owner of the building and send any comments you wish to make to me by 22 December 2016 please.

Listing is not a preservation order or a block on future changes. It ensures that proposals affecting the character of the building are considered by the local planning authority through a special planning procedure, known as listed building consent. In considering such applications the Authority will be looking to safeguard the historic character of the building from alterations, extensions or demolition that would otherwise compromise the building's special architectural and historic interest. The implications of such designation are further explained in the guides to listing and listed building consent which are available on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Raffour
Case Officer
Protection & Policy

Mae'r Gwasanaeth Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Llywodraeth Cymru (Cadw) yn hyrwyddo gwaith cadwraeth ar gyfer amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru a gwerthfawrogiad ohono.

The Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw) promotes the conservation and appreciation of Wales's historic environment.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Building & Conservation) Areas Act 1990

Listed Building: Report for Building

Authority :	Neath Port Talbot	Record Number :	87732
Community :	Margam	Date of Listing :	
Locality :		Date of Ammendment :	
		Date Delisted :	
		Grid Ref :	279537,185580
		Grade :	II*
Name :	Margam Crematorium		
Street No, Name :	off Heol Cae'r -Bont		
Street Side :			

Location :

Located along a service road c600m south from Heol Cae'r- Bont, west of Junction 38 of the M4 motorway.

History

Crematorium chapel of 1969 by FD Williamson & Associates of Porthcawl. Built to serve the cremation needs of the west Glamorgan area and located in a landscaped setting adjacent to the Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir and the M4 motorway.

Williamson had worked on the development of Croft Court in 1961, a block of flats on the front at Tenby on the site of John Nash's Sion House. More notably he had designed Narberth Crematorium in 1968, a smaller scale modernist precursor to Margam, and in the same year as Margam the prestigious National Recreation Centre (now the Sport Wales National Centre) in Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

The establishment of a crematorium at Margam belongs to a period of change in the provision of funerary services in the post war era in South Wales. A crematorium at Llwydcoed deisgnd by HMR Burges & Partners was under construction at the same time and was completed in December 1970. Provision in Mid Glamorgan was provided by a new facility built at Coychurch in 1970 designed by Maxwell Fry of Fry, Drew and Partners, a leading architect in Britain in this period.

Cremation had been revived in the late C19 but because of deep rooted conservative approaches to funerary practice it did not become widespread until after the second World War. Because cremation was a new practice the design of crematoria was unhindered by existing architectural tradition and doctrine, each new crematorium was built to accommodate new ideas on death and remembrance in a society rapidly changing in the post war period.

The first crematorium in Wales was converted in 1924 from one of the cemetery chapels in Glyntaff Cemetery in Pontypridd. The first purpose built crematorium was constructed in a European style in 1953 at Thornhill, Cardiff, followed by Swansea (1956) and Colwyn Bay (1957). Modernism was embraced for the next phase of crematoria construction with the development of cremation provision in Glamorgan: the crematoria of

Llwydcoed, Coychurch and Margam represent the development of a creative and thoughtful architectural approach unique to Wales and a subtle and sophisticated use of materials and plan forms.

Exterior

Crematorium complex in modernist style, characterised by the use of exposed concrete, massing of the geometric forms of each element of the complex and single-pitch roofs of contrasting angles. Emphasis is given to the main buildings with the use of ribbed rusticated concrete whereas the linking structures use irregular cast surfaces.

The complex is centred on the main chapel building, accessed by a covered entrance on the NE corner with flanking covered waiting area to the side of the chapel, providing shelter and privacy for mourners arriving from the crematorium car park to the E.

Attached to the W of the chapel is the office and support range, with incinerator stack to SW. Within the angle of the chapel and office range is an enclosed courtyard, with a screen wall to the south linking with the smaller chapel of the remembrance to the SE. A covered walkway links the exit from the main chapel, in the NW corner of the courtyard with a further covered walkway on the E side of the courtyard, this leads to the chapel of remembrance and as a return exit to the crematorium car park.

The main chapel, along with the incinerator stack are the main elements of the crematorium. The chapel has a dual pitched roof set higher than the rest of the crematorium, steeply angled to its S and gently sloping to the N terminating in a ramped pediment to the entrance side. Entrance portico attached to NE corner, N wall with a band of windows, four central horizontal windows with a block of three tall vertical windows to the right and five, irregularly arranged, to the left.

Service wing set back and lower to the W, entrance on the N side and a long elevation of mainly tall vertical windows to the W, continuing past the tall incinerator stack. Screen wall wraps around the SW corner and encloses at a higher level the south side of the central courtyard to the chapel of remembrance as a series of panels with breaks in between.

Chapel of remembrance echoes the design of the main chapel with a steep monopitch roof angled to the S, its south wall entirely a Dalle de verre panel (broken coloured glass). Long plain covered walkway encloses E side. Interior of courtyard dominated by S wall of chapel which has Dalle de Verre panels and angled clerestory lights above.

Interior

Main chapel interior dominated by sloping ceiling of dark timber boarding and glazed south wall; angled clerestory lights above a plain band with Dalle de Verre panels below. The chapel of remembrance is dominated by the south facing multi-coloured Dalle de Verre window, polished floor and narrow boarded sloping timber ceiling and plain concrete walls.

Listed

Included for its special architectural and historic interest as an exceptionally creative and complete example of a post war purpose built crematorium. There is an expressive and stark use of simple materials and handling of the relationship of spaces with a subtle special organisation and flow to its layout.

References

None recorded

Sources

Author	Date of Publication	Title	Volume
		Newman J, The buildings of Wales: Glamorgan, 1995, p431.	

Sidaway JD & Maddrell A
(ed.) Deathscapes: Spaces
for Death, Dying,
Mourning and
Remembrance, 2010,
pp243-262.