

MARGAM JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR

21 September 2018

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

50th Anniversary of opening of Margam Crematorium

Purpose of the Report

1. To obtain suggestions from Members on the programme of events to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the opening of Margam Crematorium with a report being brought back to the Joint Committee at the next meeting for formal approval.

Background

2. Members will be aware that the Margam Crematorium was officially opened on the 25th April 1969 by the then Secretary of State for Wales George Thomas MP.
3. Members will also note that the Margam Crematorium has now become a Grade II listed building included for its special architectural and historic interest as a fine example of a post-war crematorium, which was a new building type of the twentieth century. The building is especially imaginative and creative in responding to the design challenges of the building type, with a plan and layout that skilfully handles the circulation of users through the building and separates its functions, and with a simplicity of design and detail that helps to create a sense of spirituality appropriate to its purpose.
4. Members resolved at the last meeting of the Margam Crematorium that a programme of events to acknowledge the same be held in 2019 and some form of permanent memorial be acquired.

5. To date the Superintendent and Registrar of Margam Crematorium has considered a number of options to acknowledge this event, some of which have included:
 - (a) the holding of an ecumenical service to be held in May 2019, which would allow for contributions from all faiths/non faiths and led by members of each denomination. On the 25th anniversary in 1994, the then Archbishop of Wales attended and provide an address.
 - (b) a brochure/booklet be prepared and published on the history of the Crematorium over the last 50 years. A member of the Cremation Society of Great Britain, Dr Hilary Granger, some years ago prepared a paper and presented it to the FBCA/CSGB conference on Crematoria of the 60's and 70's and featured Margam in the paper.
 - (c) a lecture on the evolution of cremation in the area, using the same as an education event where possible.
6. The purpose of this report therefore is to invite a discussion with Members on the type of acknowledgement of the opening they would wish to have and what form of memorial they would wish to see and with the approval of Members, a report will be brought back to the next Margam Joint Crematorium Committee with a more detailed proposal along with financial costings for members consideration.

Equality Impact Assessment

7. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Financial Impact

8. To be determined once a programme of events could be put together and reported back to the Margam Joint Crematorium Committee

Workforce Impacts

9. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

10. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

11. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

12. That members discuss preparation of an event programme to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the opening of Margam Crematorium and the ways of acknowledging the opening and that the issues discussed in this report and with members of the Margam Crematorium Joint Committee are considered accordingly.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

13. To acknowledge the milestone of the 50th anniversary of the opening of Margam Crematorium

List of Background Papers

14. None

Officer Contact

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