

# **MARGAM JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE**

## **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND REGISTRAR**

**14 June 2019**

### **Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

### **50th Anniversary Ecumenical Service**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the outcome of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **Background**

2. Members will be aware that the Margam Crematorium was officially opened on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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. The following events took place:
  - (a) the holding of an ecumenical service at 5pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019, which saw contributions from all faiths/non faiths who

undertake services at Margam Crematorium with readings by local clergy of different denominations. Present were regional Assembly Members and local civic dignitaries. The service was led by Reverend Robert Bawden, who is perhaps the most longstanding officiator of funerals at Margam Crematorium. The Guest Choir were Afanté Ladies Choir.

- (b) An anniversary plaque has been placed in the Waiting Room at the Margam Crematorium acknowledging the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, though this will be relocated to the office once the planned extension is complete.
- 6. During the opening remarks, Councillor Latham as Chair of the Joint Committee commented that “Margam Crematorium is important to a lot of people, and is the place where we come together to share memories and celebrate life. The team at the Crematorium provide the very highest standards of compassionate customer care and service choice. The 50th anniversary was an opportunity to recognise the role of the Crematorium within our community, to remember the people who have passed through its doors, and to discover more about how it operates.” The view of those attendance was that the service clearly demonstrated this.
- 7. In due course a brochure/booklet will 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. Dr Granger will be working on this document from, with the aim of publication in Summer 2019.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 8. There are no impacts associated with this report.

### **Financial Impact**

- 9. The cost associated for the programme of events (as detailed in the report to members on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018) were included in budget for the 2019/2020 financial year.

### **Workforce Impacts**

- 10. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

## **Legal Impacts**

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

## **Consultation**

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

## **Recommendations**

13. That members note the position in respect of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations

## **List of Background Papers**

14. None

## **Officer Contact**

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