



A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector



We will shortly be publishing our annual **Directory of Crematoria**. You can find more information on the Directory and order your copy via our online order form, by [visiting our website](#).

We are pleased to bring you the latest monthly news review which features many crematoria planning updates. In addition, we are delighted to report on the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG)'s recent Associations Excellence 'Best Partnership or Collaboration' award. The feedback recognises the invaluable work of the entire bereavement sector during the pandemic, so please do take a look.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

A crematorium could be built in **Skegness** as part of plans being looked at by councillors. **East Lindsey District Council's** scrutiny and police panel interim report revealed the plans in a section under assistant director of assets at East Lindsey District Council Andy Fisher's responsibilities. People in the town face a trip to Alford for cremation services at the moment - which is around a 25-minute drive. "Skegness may be a possible site for another crematorium and the asset team is exploring upselling in the funeral industry," the report states. The purpose of the report was to review the way services were challenged and adapted due to the Covid pandemic. A spokesperson from East Lindsey District Council said: "The proposed masterplan for the Skegness Gateway Urban Extension includes the possibility of developing a crematorium on the 136 acre site; work is ongoing on a Local Development Order that, if adopted, will clearly set out the really exciting opportunities for the area and see plans turned into reality." For more on this story, please read the [Lincolnshire Live article](#).

A new crematorium has been granted approval on green belt land between **Godstone** and **Oxted** following an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. **Horizon Cremation** is the first operator to cross the line in a race for permission to build a crematorium in East Surrey. Tandridge District Council's planning officers rejected Horizon's scheme on a field bordered by the A25 and Barrow Green Road last year, without referring it to councillors on the planning committee, on three grounds. They included that it would cause "significant harm" to the green belt, would harm views of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to the north, and that the scale and use of the development was out of character with the area. However, following an inquiry in August, planning inspector Jonathan Price has reversed that decision, subject to conditions. He concluded the development would inflict only "moderate harm" on the appearance of the area and on the green belt, and did meet the "very special circumstances" benchmark required to build on protected land as there was unmet need in the area. For more on this development, please visit the [Surrey Live website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Grieving families in the **Maldon** area will no longer need to travel very far for funerals if plans are approved for a new crematorium near Woodham Mortimer. Developer **Elegy** is planning to offer grieving families from the Maldon area a closer and "quieter" choice.

The new crematorium would seat 100 people and hold just 4 funerals per day. Elegy director Richard Evans said: "There is an urgent need to relieve the pressure on Chelmsford crematorium so that families have the chance to hold a more personal event close to home." The developer says its crematorium has been sensitively designed to blend into the countryside with the building nestling into a parkland landscape with views over to the Maldon waters. For more on this proposal, please visit the [Maldon Standard website](#).

Belfast City Council could submit a application for a proposed new £18 million **Roselawn Crematorium** in Belfast as early as next month. The application, which will be submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's (LCCC) planning system, would see a new facility built in the Castlereagh hills. A proposal of application notice (PAN) submitted to LCCC has revealed plans for two ceremony rooms that will be able to accommodate around 4,500 cremations per year. Belfast City Council (BCC) said there is a "clear need to provide new facilities" after demand for cremations continue to increase year-on-year. The proposed new crematorium will include two ceremony rooms and will be able to accommodate around 4,500 cremations per year. For more on this, please read the [Belfast Live article](#).

Details of a proposed new crematorium in the South of Bradford have been revealed. The planned facility, off Shetcliffe Lane in **Bierley**, would replace the crematorium at Scholemoor - which **Bradford Council** says is operating beyond its expected working life. A planning application for the 9.9 hectare site has been submitted - and offer glimpses of what the new crematorium will look like. The proposals are part of a major shake-up of Bradford's bereavement services, which will also see Oakworth Crematorium being demolished and a new, more modern facility built in its place, and Nab Wood Crematorium being replaced with a facility in Heaton. For more on this development, please read the [Telegraph and Argus article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



A brand new multi-million pound crematorium site in **Derbyshire** has taken a step closer to becoming reality after **Bolsover District Council** and **Shirebrook Town Council** approved it in principle. The recommended location for the facility would be located on land adjacent to the existing Shirebrook cemetery site. Other potential locations have also been identified after an initial feasibility study was completed. The crematorium will be designed to blend into the surroundings and to provide a pleasant, peaceful place for people to visit and reflect. The proposed crematorium could include a building with lots of features such as a tranquility garden, service hall, lobby of light, crematory hall, flower courtyard, garden of remembrance, an on-site wake facility as well as car parking. Council Leader, Councillor Steve Fritchley said: "We have consulted with local funeral directors who have given us their support for a more local crematorium rather than people having to travel to Chesterfield or Mansfield. It will be a modern, fit-for-purpose crematorium facility that meets the growing needs of our population so they can celebrate the lives of their loved ones". For more on this story, please read the [Derby Telegraph article](#).

A new multi-million-pound crematorium is being built in the New Forest national park – despite initially sparking more than 500 objections. With a promise “to serve the people of New Milton, Bournemouth, Christchurch and surrounding areas”, the **New Forest Crematorium** is being developed by **Westerleigh Group**. The new facility is expected to open in March 2022 and will be the only crematorium in the New Forest. Plans were ongoing for nearly five years and underwent lengthy approval processes amid complaints over parking and air pollution. However, in March 2020, civic chiefs approved the application to construct a chapel and 110 parking spaces on farmland near Stem Lane and Great Woar Copse in New Milton. For more on this development, please visit the [Bournemouth Echo website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

European-funded work to replace the roof of the remembrance chapel at **Skipton Crematorium** is due to start later this month. Work inside and out of the book of remembrance chapel is set to take a month and is part of **Craven District Council's** 'zero carbon Craven scheme' – a £1.2m project to cut the carbon emissions of council buildings and is 50% funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The new roof will feature integrated solar panels and insulation. Roof slates which are still in good condition will be re-used where possible, says the Council. For more on this story, please visit the [Craven Herald article](#).

Plans for a new crematorium in **Reigate** have been rejected by **Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's** planning committee. However, the Council's commercial ventures arm, which made the application to build and run the facility, has not ruled out an appeal or the return of another scheme on the site in the future. Planning officers had recommended the development be approved, however Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's planning committee refused permission when it met. Speaking during the meeting, Councillor James King said there were other local crematoriums that were not at capacity and that therefore the plans did not meet the special need that would justify the development. For more on this development, please read the [Surrey Live article](#).

East Lothian's first crematorium has been given the go ahead despite concerns it is in the "wrong place". Crematoria operators **Westerleigh Group's** plans for a new facility at Old Craighall, outside Musselburgh, were approved at a meeting of East Lothian Council's planning committee. Ed Aldridge, from Westerleigh, said the aim of the company was to make funeral cortège journeys to a service 30 minutes long or less. And he argued the site at Old Craighall did that adding: "We will be the closest crematorium for 88 percent of East Lothian residents." For more on this development, please visit the [Edinburgh Live article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

SECTOR NEWS

The collaboration between funeral sector organisations to create the **Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG)** as a single point of contact for Government, during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been recognised with a national award.

In a submission for the ‘Best Partnership or Collaboration’ category at the Association Excellence Awards 2021, the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) set out how, in March 2020, the need to provide a consistent and coordinated point of contact with the UK’s regional and national governments led seven funeral sector organisations to agree to collaborate in order to be able to better support not only their members - but society as a whole. DMAG continues to meet regularly with Government, almost 18 months later. The submission also highlighted the Government’s gratitude to the sector for its collaborative approach, quoting feedback from a senior civil servant who said: “The existence of DMAG has been incredibly useful for policy development as the group could offer a united perspective from the industry,” The comments follow a letter of thanks from Nadine Dorries MP, the then Minister of State for Patient Safety, Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, who echoed the comments of the civil servants, saying: “I recognise the considerable work that everyone working in the death management sector continues to carry out to protect the dignity of the deceased and to provide support to the bereaved during the Covid-19 pandemic. I and other Ministers across government are very grateful for everything members of the Deceased Management Advisory Group are doing, to ensure funerals can continue whilst minimising the risk to both mourners and staff - and we are committed to continuing to work with the sector to meet this objective.” In their feedback, the judges praised DMAG for its excellent collaborative approach, clear impact and said that it was a "strong submission depicting the exemplary value of working in unison to serve the interests of vulnerable groups more effectively. The high-level feedback is testament to the Group's commitment to inform key decision-makers and influence policy for positive impact and unselfish gain, giving vital visibility to the sector at a time of desperate need."



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