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We are pleased to bring you this month's news round-up. Public consultations are clearly popular at the moment as we have news of another public consultation - this month it relates to the review of the existing **PGN 5/2(12) statutory guidance for crematoria**. You can find details on the next page on how to respond.

Congratulations to the Loncon Cremation Company's team at The Garden of England Crematorium on their 20th anniversary. It was a pleasure to be part of their celebrations and to see many people there to pay tribute to the team for providing such an excellent service to their community. More details on page 5.

Later in this news review, you can also find details on how to order this year's Directory of Crematoria which I am delighted to announce is now available in digital format. Great news for the environment and for all those who have been asking us to provide this as an online publication. It is an excellent resource for those working in the funeral sector, so do consider placing an order **[via our website](#)**.

**Wendy Buchan**  
**Executive Officer & Secretary to**  
**The Cremation Society**

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# The Cremation Society

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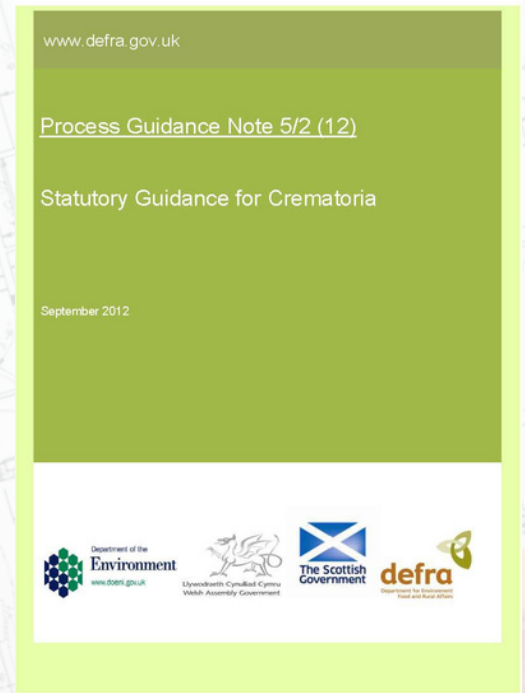
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## GOVERNMENT NEWS

**The Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs** (Defra) has launched its public consultation to seek views on the review of the existing Public Guidance Notes (PG 5/2 (12)). The deadline for responding to the consultation is 3rd December 2023 and you can provide your response via the [online survey portal on the Defra website](#).



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## CREMATORIA NEWS

Members of North Yorkshire Council's strategic planning committee voted against the Westerleigh Group's plan to site a crematorium in open countryside at **Sand Hutton**, north of York, beside the A64, after hearing it could impact on nationally important research undertaken at the neighbouring York Biotech Campus. An agent for the firm had told the meeting there was an established need for the facility as the former Ryedale district area does not have a crematorium and current crematoria in the surrounding area were working "over capacity". However, the meeting was told the 13 scientific organisations based at the campus, which represented "a critical piece of national infrastructure" had objected to the proposal. Sheriff Hutton and Derwent division councillor **Caroline Goodrick** told the meeting the applicants had failed to demonstrate sufficient qualitative need for the crematorium to justify siting it on a rural greenfield site and their proposal had in fact received scant support from funeral directors in the area. Councillors added while the venture appeared to be targeted towards York's population, the city already had a centrally located crematorium which most of its residents would prefer to use and there was no issue with volume of provision on alternative sites. To read the complete article, please go to: [The York Press website](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



The High Court has quashed plans for what would have been one of the largest crematoriums in the UK. A controversial plan to build the **Atlantic View Crematorium** on a 5.8-hectare rural site next to the A39 at Poundstock, near Bude, was granted by the council's strategic planning committee last November, despite hundreds of objections from local residents. However, objectors questioned the viability of the project and said that it was in the wrong location, claiming that it could have a major impact on residents and on the tourism industry in the area. Two local residents **Gemma Watton** and **Jonathan Cameron** challenged the council's decision to allow the crematorium and following a judicial review at the High Court in London last week, judge **Sir Duncan Ouseley** found in their favour and quashed the permission. The court found that the planning officer's report gave a seriously misleading overall impression of the evidence concerning the project's viability. The risk that the crematorium might not be fully used needed to be spelled out. The judge also found that the planning officer's report in respect of the transport benefits of the plan was significantly misleading and expressed no clear conclusion as to whether the proposal complied with certain landscape and environmental protection policies. To read the full article, please go to: **[The Falmouth Packet website.](#)**

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Work has begun on a £9.6m crematorium in Derbyshire. Plans for the **Roseland Park and Crematorium**, in **Shirebrook**, were initially approved in September 2022 and a ground-breaking ceremony has finally taken place to mark the launch of construction work with plans for the site to be completed by spring 2025. Bolsover District Council Leader, **Councillor Steve Fritchley** said, "This is partnership working at its best, as the town council have donated the land and our own company, Dragonfly Development Ltd, are building it for the benefit of local people." A large site off Common Lane, next to Shirebrook Cemetery, has been earmarked for the project, which will include a main crematorium building, a wake facility, florist kiosk and takeaway refreshments, car parking and both formal memorial gardens and informal parkland to provide a beautiful landscape and biodiversity for the site. The aim is also to achieve a BREEAM 'excellent' accreditation (an environmental accreditation for environmental efficiency) after the council identified plans to support carbon neutrality. The project also hopes to provide new employment and training opportunities throughout the construction phase and once the site is completed it is also expected to create eight new jobs for people working at the facility. To read the full article, please head to: **[The Derbyshire Times website.](#)**



### CREMATORIA NEWS

The current prohibition on establishing any privately-run crematorium in **Northern Ireland** is not unlawful, a Court of Appeal has ruled. Senior judges rejected claims by a Co Tyrone man that rules which allow only local councils to operate cremation facilities are irrational. Northern Ireland currently only has two crematoria, located at **Roselawn** on the outskirts of Belfast and on the Doagh Road in **Newtownabbey, Co Antrim**. The facilities are run by Belfast City Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council respectively under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Legal action was mounted by Oliver Hughes, who had researched and purchased equipment for setting up a privately-operated crematorium close to his native Carrickmore. Mr Hughes believed there was a need to provide such a service to families in western areas and that he could make it into a profitable business. But Article 17 of the Order prohibits and criminalises anyone other than a local council from providing and maintaining a crematorium. Earlier this year the High Court dismissed his application for judicial review. Appealing that ruling, counsel for Mr Hughes contended that the prohibition limits the burial choices available to the population in Northern Ireland. Rejecting Mr Hughes' appeal, the judge concluded: "Government ministers and departments, unless specifically empowered by legislation to do so, are not legally competent to alter any provision of extant litigation." To read more on this story, please go to:

**[The Irish News website.](#)**

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A new, multi-million-pound crematorium has hosted its first services. **Shay Grange** in Heaton is replacing Nab Wood Crematorium as Bradford Council's main crematorium in the North of the District. The crematorium has cost almost £9 million, and is part of a wider programme to upgrade the District's ageing crematoria. It has been built on a green belt site – the Council argued this was necessary as rules dictate crematoria cannot be built close to homes or main roads. Ceremonies are held in a large hall that can be subdivided to cater for both larger and smaller, more intimate ceremonies, with the caterfalque in the centre. The crematorium will also be the new home for the Council's bereavement services. For the first time all the District's burial records have been collected into one location. Some of these records date back as far as 1857. The landscaped area around the crematorium acts as a garden of remembrance. To read the full article, please go to: **[The Telegraph & Argus website.](#)**



## NEWS REVIEW

## CREMATORIA NEWS

**The Garden of England Crematorium** celebrated 20 years of being open and have served the local community and surrounding areas. To help mark this milestone, families, colleagues (old and new), the original landowner, the Deputy Mayor of Swale, along with many more, were invited on Sunday 17th September to come along to join in with what had been planned for the afternoon.

The Acting General Manager, Kerry Hanson, opened the afternoon with a few words in the chapel and was then followed by Ken Lindsay, The London Cremation Company's Chairman, who thanked everyone for attending the afternoon's event.

Deputy Mayor of Swale Ben J Martin, kindly planted a weeping willow tree to mark the Crematorium being open for 20 years. A commemorative leaf was fixed to the new metal memorial mulberry tree that had been installed in the grounds by The Columbaria Company.

The BAE brass band were playing whilst everyone congregated for refreshments and cutting of the anniversary cake, as well as enjoying looking around the vintage hearses that were being showcased by two local funeral directors, along with the horse and carriage who were originally the first horse drawn hearse to come through the gates back in 2003. An enjoyable afternoon had by all!





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**OrthoMetals** - a family owned and operated business, recycling metals remaining after cremation.



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**Welters** - interment and memorial specialists.

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If you have any news you would like us to consider for future newsletters, please do contact us at [info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)



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