



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



Competition and Markets Authority

The Competition and Markets Authority has issued the Funerals Market Investigation Order 2021 which will impact on funeral directors and crematorium operators.

For more details, please see page six.

We are continuing to see an ongoing easing of restrictions both across society as a whole and in particular in relation to funeral practices. The guidance issued by government from across the UK is being updated regularly and we continue to work as part of the Deceased Management Advisory Group in communicating the updates to the sector. Please do visit the **DMAG website** or **our own website** to ensure you have the latest guidance to hand.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

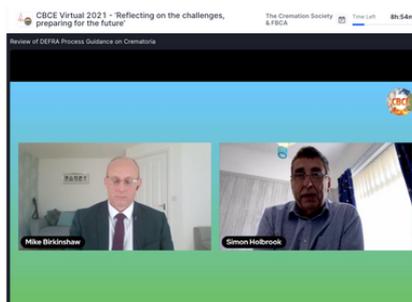


CBCE Virtual 2021 - 'Reflecting on the challenges, preparing for the future'

Thank you to all those who presented, exhibited at, and attended this year's online CBCE. We are delighted with the feedback that we have already received from attendees and we hope you found it informative and interesting.

We are grateful to each of the speakers for giving their time to bring us up-to-date news and thought-provoking presentations, covering a wide range of issues.

We have circulated a feedback form and would appreciate your thoughts in order that we can continue to bring you relevant and topical future events



We are grateful to the sponsors of this year's event.



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Work has started on the construction of a multi million-pound crematorium in the West Midlands. **Waseley Hills Crematorium & Cemetery** in Rubery, just south of Birmingham and north of Bromsgrove, will be operated by **Westerleigh Group**, the UK's largest independent owner-operator of crematoria and cemeteries, with 35 sites in England, Scotland and Wales. The project, being carried out by Stepnell, is due for completion later this year, with the first services taking place in early 2022. Bill Scott, regional manager at Westerleigh Group, said: "We're excited with the development of our latest crematorium at Waseley Hills. We pride ourselves on providing exceptional care in beautiful settings, so families can remember, mourn and celebrate the lives of their loved ones in a way that is uniquely personal." You can read more on the development on the [BusinessDesk website](#).

The decision to block plans for a crematorium in a Norfolk village has been backed by government officials. Proposals to build the new facility in **Weeting**, near Brandon, were rejected by Breckland Council last year. **Dignity Funerals** had hoped to develop 10 acres of farmland off Brandon Road to provide a crematorium with an accompanying chapel, memorial gardens and office space. The scheme had attracted widespread criticism from villagers for its proximity to local amenities and potential impact on traffic and the landscape. Breckland's planning committee opted to shelve the project, which was recommended for refusal. Dignity chose to appeal and a four-day Planning Inspectorate inquiry took place in April. Writing in his decision notice, Mr Davies said: "In terms of capacity, there is no need for a crematorium at Weeting. In terms of proximity, the proposed facility would reduce travel time to a crematorium for a significant number of people, which would be of benefit. However, alternative crematoria are available within what I consider to be a reasonable drive time, having regard to the rural character of the area and lack of evidence to indicate the additional drive time would be unacceptably stressful." For full details, please visit the [East Anglian Daily Times website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans to build a crematorium in **Hooton** have been unveiled. The proposed development is earmarked for land off the B5133 Hooton Road, next to Oaklands Office Park. **Horizon Cremation**, who are behind the plans, says it wants the modern, environmentally advanced facility to serve a clear and growing need for more accessible crematorium care across the local area. As part of their detailed needs case, Horizon highlight that the population across Cheshire and The Wirral is growing, including significant growth in the number of people aged 65-years and over, and the critical need to have in place sufficient cremation and burial capacity so that families can hold dignified funeral services both now and into the future. For more on this proposed development, please visit the [Chester Standard website](#).

Construction work on the £3.5m renovation project at **St Helens Crematorium** has begun. **St Helens Council** says the project will allow expansion of the range of services that can be offered to families by the Bereavement Service. The ambition for the £3.5 million project is a full refurbishment of the Crematorium building, in "a cohesive, modern and respectful style". Cllr Andy Bowden, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "This major investment represents our faith in the future of the Crematorium, and our aspiration to enhance the caring service provided to the bereaved and their families in the most difficult times." For more details on the work, please read the [St Helens Star article](#).

Work is due to start on a new crematorium facility and community space in **Rushcliffe** later this summer known as Rushcliffe Oaks, reflecting the connection back to nature and wildlife and **Rushcliffe Borough Council's** commitment to improving the biodiversity of the site. The modern contemporary building will be located in Stragglethrope near Cotgrave and will provide an environmentally conscious building and memorial gardens that are sensitive to its surroundings. The Council is still seeking to be carbon neutral in its operations by 2030 and this is reflected at the heart of its design and thought process for the new facility. You can read more on this development in the [West Bridgford Wire article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Oxford Crematorium has undergone a £50,000 revamp with new technology installed and reupholstered chairs. The project aimed to modernise the chapel at the site in Headington and includes new furniture, curtains, carpets and flooring following an investment of £50,000 by owners **The Crematorium and Memorial Group (CMG)**. The chapel has been redecorated and CMG has also worked closely with restoration specialists to reupholster the chairs. Trish Smith, manager at Oxford Crematorium, said: “We provide an important service to the local community and this project has significantly improved our facilities. The refurbished chapel means that local families will have the modern facilities and comforts they want when they say a last farewell to their loved ones.” For more details, please read the [Oxford Mail article](#).

Plans to build **Herne Bay**'s first crematorium have been given the green light – despite fears mourners cannot travel to the site by bus. **Westerleigh Group** first lodged the bid with Canterbury City Council to erect the facility on a 14-acre plot off Bullockstone Road towards the end of last year. City Council officer Stevie Andrews said bus, walking and cycling routes are expected to be added to Bullockstone Road, after Kent County Council's improvement work to the stretch is completed. Westerleigh Group's senior development manager, Ed Aldridge, said: “Every last detail has been considered, which will allow family and friends time to reflect and say their goodbyes in a decent and dignified way. This site will also dramatically reduce the distance families will have to travel, further reducing the stresses associated with the funeral service.” For more details, please visit the [Kent Online website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER UPDATE

National Medical Examiner, **Dr Alan Fletcher**, has recently published his latest update which covers areas including the extension of medical examiner scrutiny to all non-coronial deaths in England; implementation in Wales; finance and quarterly reporting in England; and news on the first medical examiner annual conference held in April 2021. You can read the latest update on the [NHS website](#).



National Medical Examiner update

June 2021

Welcome

I know that recent months have been particularly busy and a stretching period for many colleagues, and I hope that the reduction in demand due to COVID-19 infections is bringing some relief. However my own experience is that workload remains challenging as patients and the NHS returns to normal operations.

The period since the previous bulletin has also been busy – but productive – for the national medical examiner team. We were delighted to be able to publish the first National Medical Examiner report 2020 at the Royal College of Pathologists' annual conference for medical examiners. You can read more below. I was particularly pleased that we could report examples where medical examiners are already having a positive impact in Wales and in England, both on improving care for future patients, and on the experience of those who are bereaved. The fact we could do this is down to medical examiners and medical examiner officers reporting their successes and feedback to us, for which I am very grateful.

I am also delighted that we are now in a position to start extending medical examiner scrutiny to all non-coronial deaths in England, and that medical examiners have already started this process in Wales. We have provided brief details in this bulletin, and regional medical examiners in England will be contacting lead medical examiners about next steps.

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner

BOOK NEWS

The **Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)** has commissioned a new book authored by its company solicitor, V. Charles Ward. The 245 page 'Essential Law for Cemetery and Crematorium Managers' is the first authoritative book on burial and cremation law since Davies Law of Burial, Cremation and Exhumation (7th Edition) last appeared in 2002. You can find full details of the book and how to purchase, on the [ICCM website](#).

COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY NEWS

Following its investigation into the funerals market, the **CMA** has made its **Funeral Market Investigation Order 2021**. Under the Order, with effect from 16 September 2021 as well as other measures, all funeral directors must display a Standardised Price List at their premises and on their website. This list must include: the headline price of a funeral; the price of the individual items comprising the funeral, and the price of certain additional products and services. Crematorium operators will also be required to provide specified price information to funeral directors and customers. The Order also requires some funeral directors and crematorium operators to provide the CMA with revenue and volume information. You can read the Press Release, Order and accompanying Explanatory Note on the [CMA website](#).

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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



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