

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Allum Lane Cemetery is closed to the public until further notice, except for funerals and burials. We have also made certain changes to the service during this time as explained further in the below questions

## How do I contact the Cemetery?

The council office is currently closed however our staff are still contactable to deliver the cemetery service.

In the first instance please contact [cemetery@hertsmere.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@hertsmere.gov.uk) for all cemetery related enquiries and a response will be actioned as soon as possible.

Please note that enquiries relating to funerals will be prioritised.

## Can I come and visit a grave at the cemetery?

Following government guidance and the introduction of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020, Allum Lane Cemetery is open at weekends between 8am and 6pm. All visitors are asked to adhere to the government's social distancing guidelines and we thank everyone for their co-operation.

During the week, the cemetery is closed as there are several burial and funeral services being conducted. This is to ensure that we can protect the health and safety of staff and of those attending services.

We hope that those wishing to pay their respect at loved one's graves will be able to take the opportunity to visit at weekends.

## Can we hold a graveside service?

Graveside services are still permitted although restricted to 30 minutes maximum and all mourners must leave the cemetery **immediately** after the service to allow back filling of the grave to commence.

This is necessary to ensure social distancing and limit the spread of infection.

Whilst we appreciate that this situation is very difficult for all concerned, exiting the cemetery grounds in a timely manner allows our cemetery staff to continue to attend other burials and carry out other essential work.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **How many mourners are currently allowed to attend a graveside service?**

Attendance at funerals is to be limited to no more than 10 mourners. Mourners should also follow government advice on social distancing when travelling to and from the funeral gathering.

## **Who can attend a funeral?**

Only the following are allowed to attend a funeral to a maximum number of 10:

- Members of the deceased's household (self-isolation must have been completed if the deceased had Covid-19 or showed symptoms)
- Close family members
- A small number of friends may attend but only in the absence of any household/family members

Please maintain a distance of 2m between yourself and other mourners at all times unless you are from the same household.

Please do not attend a burial if you or anyone in your household has suspected or confirmed COVID-19 symptoms, or if you are classed as a vulnerable person.

## **What should we do at the funeral to stop the spread of Coronavirus?**

Those attending should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Different households should travel to and from the venue separately
- Avoid direct physical contact e.g. hugging unless part of the same household and stand at least 2 metres apart
- Follow advice on handwashing, sneezing and coughing to reduce the spread of germs. Use of a hand sanitiser is recommended.

## **How can we access the Cemetery for a funeral if it is closed to the public?**

Access will be available 15 minutes prior to the booked time of the funeral. Council staff will meet the funeral cortege and open the main gates on Allum Lane.

Family members are requested to follow the Funeral Directors vehicle to the graveside.

Funeral Directors are respectfully requested to adhere to permitted numbers in attendance.

When attending burials if you need to talk to our cemetery or grounds maintenance staff, please keep a 2 metre distance.

There are currently no public convenience facilities open for use at the Cemetery.

## **Can I arrange the headstone?**

Yes, permits for new or altered headstones are still being processed and issued.

However, please note that there will be a delay as the headstone will not be able to be laid in the cemetery until it re-opens to the public.

## **Can a change of grave ownership still take place?**

The changing of ownership of a purchased grave is still possible, although this will take longer than usual.

Priority will be given to ownership changes where this is required in order to arrange a burial.

## **I would like to arrange a memorial rose or bench for a loved one?**

Unfortunately this service is not available at present.

For more information on how the council is dealing with the coronavirus outbreak, please visit our website: [www.hertsmere.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/coronavirus)